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Barcinas appointed to preside over Torres' suit against Finance

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The CNMI Supreme Court has appointed Guam judge Arthur R. Barcinas to preside over former governor Ralph DLG Torres' case against the Department of Finance and others.

Barcinas

After all sitting Superior Court judges issued orders of recusals last month, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro has officially appointed Barcinas to preside over Torres' petition against the Department of Finance regarding its decision not to rule on the

See BARCINAS on Page 4

House OK's bill removing marijuana from all pre-employment drug testing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With only Rep. Manny Gregory T. Castro (Ind-Saipan) in opposition, the House of Representatives passed Friday a bill that seeks to remove marijuana from all pre-employment drug testing for government applicants with certain exceptions.

With 17 House members voting "yes" during a special session, House Bill 23-50 passed the House. It now goes to the Senate

See HOUSE on Page 4

A miracle, says family of Japanese soldier killed in WWII, as flag he carried returns from the US

AP
USS *Lexington* Museum executive director Steve Banta, left, and Toshihiro Mutsuda, the elderly son of Japanese soldier Shigeyoshi Mutsuda, hold together Mutsuda's good luck flag during the handover ceremony of his good luck flag at Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo, Japan, Saturday, July 29, 2023.

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP)—Toshihiro Mutsuda was only 5 years old when he last saw his father, who was drafted by Japan's Imperial Army in 1943 and killed in action. For him, his father was a bespectacled man in an old family photo standing by a signed good-luck flag that he carried to war.

On Saturday, when the flag was returned to him from a

See MIRACLE on Page 4

CNMI artists shine in Bridge Capital competition

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

Bridge Capital LLC's Art Competition this year not only highlighted the creativity and artistic skills of many of the CNMI's homegrown artists, but also rewarded 13 artists whose work topped the tilt. The announcement of winners and presentation of prizes were made last Friday at the Flame Tree Arts Festival on the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe.

See ARTISTS on Page 4

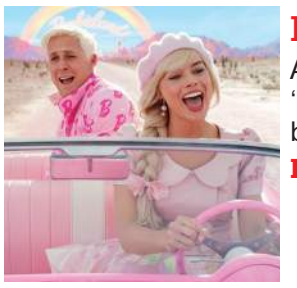
CHRYSTAL MARINO
Bridge Capital LLC's Shawn Scott, CNMI first lady Wella Palacios, and Bridge Capital CEO John K. Baldwin pose with Joseph Weaver, first place winner in the painting and drawing category of Bridge Capital's 2023 Art Contest, last Friday at the Civic Center Beach Park in Susupe.

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
60

INSIDE

BUSINESS
United became the first U.S. airline to add Braille to aircraft interiors.
PAGE 14

OVERDRIVE
For Hyundai's newest battery electric vehicle, the 2023 Ioniq 6, designers did something unthinkable.
PAGE 18



LIFE & STYLE
A week later, the "Barbenheimer" boom has not abated.
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Local

High court denies alleged rapist's motion to stay trial

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Supreme Court for the CNMI has denied the motion to stay trial proceedings filed by an alleged rapist who has also petitioned the high court to disqualify all Superior Court judges from hearing his case.

Last Friday, the Supreme Court issued its ruling on William Abraczinskas' motion to stay trial proceedings pending a ruling on his previous petition to disqualify all Superior Court judges from hearing his case.

Abraczinkas, 34, is accused of sexually assaulting a co-worker last April 8 and is facing charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace,

In its ruling, the court denied Abraczinskas' motion stating that he must first file the motion with the Superior Court.

"To grant a stay, Abraczinskas must show that moving first in the Superior Court would be impracticable; or state that, a motion having been made, the Superior Court denied the motion or failed to afford the relief requested and state any reasons given by the Superior Court for its action. The motion lacks a showing it was impracticable to first apply for a stay, or statement that the court denied or failed to grant the stay and its reason. Accordingly, the Court denies the motion to stay the trial proceedings," the ruling stated.

After denying Abraczinskas' motion for disqualification, the Supreme court scheduled the criminal case for a jury trial on Oct. 16.

The court has also ordered the parties to appear for a pre-trial conference on August 30.

In addition, the court has also ordered the respondents named in Abraczinskas' petition to answer the petition by Aug. 21, so that Abraczinskas may reply no later than August 28.

Camacho

Previously, Abraczinskas, a law clerk of Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo and defendant in a rape case, filed a petition to disqualify all Superior Court judges from presiding over his case.

Specifically, the defense requested the high court to issue writs of prohibition and mandamus, ordering Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho to make a finding consistent with the evidence presented at court, that the appearance of impropriety in this matter is unquestionable and that the trial court should recuse itself from this case.

The defense argues that the trial court order denying the defense's motion to disqualify all Superior Court judges from this case, was erroneous as a matter of law.

"The defendant in the matter was an employee of the judiciary, the complaining witness in this matter was at the time of allegation also an employee of the judiciary and remains a current employee of the judiciary. Rule 1 CMC 3308(a) read together with the NMI Code of Judicial Conduct, Canon 3©(a) does not require a finding of actual bias or impartiality, only that a reasonable person might question the judge's impartiality," the petition said.

Abraczinskas, instead, wants a special judge to be appointed to hear this case instead.

Kilili underscores need to defend federal financial aid to students

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) underscored the importance of defending federal student financial aid programs during the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development's hearing Thursday on affordability and value in American colleges.

Sablan, who is a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, said they all benefit from the federal student aid programs that are available to those who qualify and need the programs to move forward and get a good education.

Sablan

He said one of those programs is the Pell Grant, to which he is a strong supporter because of its importance all throughout the country.

Sablan said he supported increasing the maximum awards of Pell grants twice in the last two years.

He said the Pell grant is very important to the CNMI, where about 1,000 students attend the community college and that it typically covers the tuition.

The delegate expressed concern about what will happen to the students if they were to sort of bear down some of the federal student financial aid programs because the majority Republican colleagues are proposing to make bear cuts to the budget despite the president's submission of a fiscal year 2023 budget level funding.

"What happens to those students who want to go to school, who should go to school and yet don't have the resources because we have all these new ideas of how to reduce their funds, the student aid programs," Sablan told the subcommittee.

In his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend, Sablan said making sure Marianas students have access to high-quality college education has always been one of his top priorities as a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

He said these federal student financial aid programs offer a lifeline to college students in the Marianas and across America, who would otherwise be unable to afford tuition.

"It is critical we keep these federal programs fully funded," Sablan said.

Bill for parity in coverage, payments for mental health services OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The House of Representatives unanimously passed Friday a bill that seeks to establish parity in coverage and payments for mental health services delivered through telehealth and in person.

With all 18 House members present at a special session voting "yes," House Bill 23-47 passed the House and now goes to the Senate for action.

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent, but excused from the session.

Under the legislation, to implement Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT) and increase public access in the CNMI to professional psychological and other mental health services by telehealth, it ensures that the public is able to afford those services by requiring private payer, Medicaid and other governmental plans or policies, to provide coverage on an equal basis as in person services.

Rep. Malcolm J. Omar (Ind-Saipan), who is the author of the legislation, stated that the bill contributes to the expansion of mental health services by requiring parity for payment of telehealth services in the CNMI.

The House Health and Welfare Committee chaired by Omar recommends the passage of the legislation.

According to the committee's report, the COVID-19 pandemic has created a greater need for mental health services in a context already marked by a gap in access to services, making it urgent to bridge that gap and promote the expansion of mental health services for the people of the CNMI.

In order to ensure the public is able to afford those services by requiring private payer, Medicaid and other governmental plans or policies, to provide on an equal basis as in person services.

Those who testified to support the bill were Community Guidance Center director Joseph Kevin Villagomez, licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Anne V. Erhard, acting Commerce secretary Francisco Cabrera, Community Solutions president and former representative Sheila Jack Babauta, and senior policy adviser and former representative Christina E. Sablan.

Those who provided written comments in support of the bill were Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Esther L. Muna, Marianas Office-Micronesian Legal Services Corp. directing attorney Jane Mack, and several others.

Aug. Chamber membership meeting features MINA, NMC

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce its upcoming August general membership meeting, scheduled to take place tomorrow, Aug. 2, from 11:30am to 1:30pm at the Hibiscus Hall of the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

This informative meeting will feature distinguished presenters from Marianas Island Nature Alliance and the Northern Marianas College, along with updates from the Chamber leadership on the door-knocking initiative in Washington. D.C.

NMC will have spotlight speaker, Neda Deleon Guerrero, who will be introducing Handshake, which is an online platform for college students to find jobs, internships, and connect with employers. Attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding on the benefits this online platform has for college students.

MINA, a community-based, nonprofit organization, will be the special speaker during the meeting. Roberta Guerrero from MINA will introduce their New Plastic Project Program, with highlights on the ongoing efforts within the MINA office. This presentation will let Chamber members have a different view on the importance of keeping our environment plastic free.

Moreover, Chamber committees will provide updates on their activities and progress, highlighting contributions the Chamber conducts for the benefit of the business community. Attendees will have the opportunity to stay informed about the Chamber's ongoing projects and engage with committee representatives to learn more about their respective focuses.

The registration fee for Chamber members is $25, while future Chamber members are welcome to attend for a fee of $35. This fee covers attendance, networking opportunities, access to presentations, and a delicious lunch.

For more information and to RSVP for the August general membership meeting, visit the Saipan Chamber of Commerce website at www.saipanchamber.com or contact the Chamber directly at (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. The Chamber serves as the collective voice of the business community, advocating for their interests, fostering collaboration, and driving initiatives that support the local economy. ***(PR)***

SHRM to discuss legislative updates on its Aug. 3 monthly meeting

The Society for Human Resource Management CNMI Chapter will host a general membership meeting this Thursday, Aug. 3, at the Saipan World Resort Sunflower Ballroom.

Doors will open at 11am for the meeting set from 11:30am to 1pm.

Michael Pangelinan, Partner at Calvo, Fisher, & Jacob, LLP, and Jose Mafnas Jr., corporate counsel at Triple J Enterprises Inc., will discuss legislative updates regarding employment related matters and how it affects the CNMI.

The following fees apply:

- $30 for members
- $35 for future members

This meeting will include lunch. Seating is limited and by submitting this form you are confirming your attendance on Thursday, August 3, 2023 from 11:30am to 1pm.

One person per one entry. One representative may submit multiple entries for each participant under their company.

The SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. It serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters.

The CNMI Chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(PR)***

Sen. Babauta's office burglarized

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The office of Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) was burglarized over the weekend and the unfortunate incident remains under investigation.

The Department of Public Safety continues to investigate the burglary incident at the office of Sen. Babauta who said she discovered the break-in just yesterday morning when she noticed that a rock had been thrown to her office window.

"The matter is currently an active investigation. My office has filed a complaint with DPS. We are still assessing the damages and loss but as far as we can tell, A surveillance camera perched on my window sill was stolen," she said.

Aside from a surveillance camera, Babauta said as of yesterday, it seems as though nothing else had been stolen.

Saipan Tribune tried to get a statement from the Department of Public Safety but to no avail.

Meanwhile, Babauta said ultimately the crime was a crime against the people and is concerned that her official office will continue to be a target.

"I am concerned because it's a crime against the people and a public office being vandalized. Regardless of political affiliations we should all be concerned that a public office has been vandalized and as an elected public servant, I am concerned about my official office being targeted," she said.

ARTISTS

From page 1

Over $13,000 in total cash prizes were given to artists who topped the competition. For artists 12-and-up, each first place winner received a monetary prize of $1,500. Artists Jia Yi Li and Kim Ji-yun tied for first place in the 12-17 age group category, and in the painting and drawing category, Joseph Weaver took first place. Vlad Melnik's shot on one of the Northern Islands landed him first place in the photography category, and Gregorio Bacnis Jr.'s multimedia piece topped the open artwork category.

Coming in second place was Elaine Pagaduan, for the 12-17 age group category, Nhorleen Lilles in painting and drawing; Jeromalyn Santos in photography; and Veronica Arriola in open artwork. Each second place winner was also awarded $1,000.

For the 11-and-under category, Victoria Huang was first taking home $750, while Lydia Xian came in second, receiving $500. The Governor's Choice Award and $1,000 went to Christian Apolonio.

Last but not the least, the Bridge Capital Community Choice award went to Von Derick Lauron.

Judges for the artwork included Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and first lady Wella Palacios, House Speaker Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan), and Mayor Ramon "RB" Camacho.

Bridge Capital principals and CEOs John Baldwin and Sean Scott shared their remarks after the prize presentation

"We have amazing talents here in the CNMI and we are happy to be a part of rewarding the artists," shared Baldwin. He encouraged the artist to continue to work hard in their field." Art is important, it expresses who we are."

He also acknowledged their staff, "Our Bridge Capital staff is quite amazing. You know the work they put into the art show, Flame Tree and the CNMI got talent is really above and beyond the call of duty, you know, they work for Bridge, but they do this work because they want to, and because they want to help And because they also appreciate the community."

Scott also took the opportunity to thank the audience.

"Thank you for supporting all the artists...We appreciate the opportunity to be involved in all this." He also thanked the first lady and governor for their efforts and support as well.

"Ten years ago, Bridge Capital looked for a way in which we could participate in the [Flame Tree] Arts Festival And we came up with our own competition," said Bridge Capital vice president Bart Johnson

These artworks will be displayed at the T-Galleria in Garapan from now until Aug. 6.

MIRACLE

From page 1

U.S. war museum where it had been on display for 29 years, Mutsuda, now 83, said: "It's a miracle."

The flag, known as "Yosegaki Hinomaru," or Good Luck Flag, carries the soldier's name, Shigeyoshi Mutsuda, and the signatures of his relatives, friends and neighbors wishing him luck. It was given to him before he was drafted by the Army. His family was later told he died in Saipan, but his remains were never returned.

The flag was donated in 1994 and displayed at the museum aboard the USS Lexington, a WWII aircraft carrier, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Its meaning was not known until it was identified by the family earlier this year, said museum director Steve Banta, who brought the flag to Tokyo.

Banta said he learned the story behind the flag earlier this year when he was contacted by the Obon Society, a nonprofit organization that has returned about 500 similar flags as non-biological remains, to the descendants of Japanese servicemembers killed in the war.

The search for the flag's original owner started in April when a museum visitor took a photo and asked an expert about the description that it had belonged to a "kamikaze" suicide pilot. When Shigeyoshi Mutsuda's grandson saw the photo, he sought help from the Obon Society, group co-founder Keiko Ziak said.

"When we learned all of this, and that the family would like to have the flag, we knew immediately that the flag did not belong to us," Banta said at the handover ceremony. "We knew that the right thing to do would be to send the flag home, to be in Japan and to the family."

The soldier's eldest son, Toshihiro Mutsuda, was speechless for a few seconds when Banta, wearing white gloves, gently placed the neatly folded flag into his hands. Two of his younger siblings, both in their 80s, stood by and looked on silently. The three children, all wearing cotton gloves so they wouldn't damage the decades-old flag, carefully unfolded it to show to the audience.

"After receiving the flag today, I earnestly felt that the war like that should never be fought again and that I do not wish anyone else to go through this sadness (of separation)," Toshihiro Mutsuda said.

The soldier's daughter, Misako Matsukuchi, touched the flag with both hands and prayed. "After nearly 80 years, the spirit of our father returned to us. I hope he can finally rest in peace," Matsukuchi said later.

Toshihiro Mutsuda said his memory of his father was foggy. However, he clearly remembers his mother, Masae Mutsuda, who died five years ago at age 102, used to make the long-distance bus trip almost every year from the farming town in Gifu, central Japan, to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, where the 2.5 million war dead are enshrined, to pay tribute to her husband's spirit.

The shrine is controversial, as it includes convicted war criminals among those commemorated. Victims of Japanese aggression during the first half of the 20th century, especially China and the Koreas, see Yasukuni as a symbol of Japanese militarism. However, for the Mutsuda family, it's a place to remember the loss of a father and husband.

BARCINAS

From page 1

defense's petition against the contract of special prosecutor James Robert Kingman.

"Under the authority of the Article IV, Section 9(d) of the NMI Constitution and in furtherance of the prompt and efficient dispatch of Court business, the Chief Justice may designate a judge pro tempore as necessary. It is therefore, ordered: Honorable Arthur R. Barcinas, Judge of the Superior Court of Guam, is hereby designated and appointed to serve as judge pro tempore in this matter. [Parties] shall notify the Clerk of the Superior Court in writing no later than ten days from the date of this order of any good cause or reason why Judge Arthur R. Barcinas should not serve as judge pro tempore," said Castro in his order.

Barcinas is also currently presiding over Torres' pending criminal case which has yet to be set for trial.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, Torres, through his defense team, filed a petition for a judicial review of the decision the Department of Finance made in the Kingman case. The DOF and the Office of the Attorney General were named respondents in this matter.

The petition came after Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita declined to rule or address the merits of Torres' request that Kingman's contract with the OAG be declared invalid.

In addition, the agency ruling dismissed Torres' request finding that the department lacks the authority to issue a declaratory ruling because Kingman's contract had already been signed.

As relief, Torres is asking the Superior Court to vacate the DOF's final agency decision on the grounds that the ruling was arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, and contrary to law. The defense also wants the court to rule that the special prosecutor's contract fails to comply with procurement regulations and is therefore void.

Alternatively, Torres asks that the court set aside the DOF's final agency ruling and remand the matter back to the agency for a decision on the merits of his request for declaratory relief by an independent and unbiased hearing officer.

Torres is challenging Kingman's previous contract with the OAG as a special prosecutor in his ongoing criminal case. Torres argues that the contract did not comply with the CNMI's rules of procurement.

The defense team for Torres is now also strongly opposing Kingman's recent appointment as a staff attorney for the OAG as an assistant attorney general.

HOUSE

From page 1

for action.

Reps. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) and Thomas John Dela Cruz Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent, but excused from the session.

Before the voting, Castro said the intent of the legislation is good, but he believes it might cost the government more in the long run.

Castro said there is a shortfall in funding allocated to drug testing at the Office of Personnel Management so oftentimes by the time they catch and identify the individuals that have been under the influence of drugs, it's already years into their employment.

"So in essence, it's a better medium to catch them prior to employment and it saves the government more money by filtering prior to…" he said.

Rep. Diego Vincent F. Camacho (D-Saipan), who is the principal author of the bill, said the intent of the legislation really is just to be in line with Public Law 20-66, the Taulamwaar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018.

Public Law 20-66 authorized the personal, medicinal, and commercial use of cannabis/marijuana.

Camacho said the pre-employment matter was not addressed in Public Law 20-66.

"Really the intent of this legislation is for the initial drug testing, anything after that is on the employee or the employer," he said.

Camacho said the legislation also addresses that any position that is federally funded, even partially, will be the exception to include positions that are safety sensitive.

He said it also authorizes the director of OPM to identify these positions.

Rep. Roman C. Benavente (Ind-Saipan) said he is supporting the legislation for the fact that marijuana use is already a law and it's already approved here in the CNMI.

"We're allowed to use it and not only that, the health benefits, there are some health benefits behind it that really help in the community," Benavente said.

He said he knows the abuse part, but that he is looking at the health part.

In supporting the bill, Rep. Vicente C. Camacho (D-Saipan) said they're always talking about workforce and there's a lot of people that want to work, but this drug testing for the presence of marijuana seems to be the block.

"It's already here. I think that people are smart enough to understand that when you do accept the job, there are policies to follow," Camacho said.

Under the bill, pre-employment testing for the presence of marijuana shall not apply to applicants for government jobs in safety sensitive positions, meaning jobs that involve activities which directly affect the safety of one or more persons, including the operation of motor vehicles, heavy machinery, emergency services or the carrying of firearms.

The House Judiciary & Governmental Operations Committee chaired by Rep. Marissa Flores (Ind-Saipan) recommends the passage of the bill.

According to the committee's report, it would be highly appropriate to regulate marijuana in the same manner as alcohol.

The report states that when an employee is off-duty, he or she has the freedom to consume alcohol after working hours.

The committee finds that it would be highly appropriate to afford the applicants and employees with the same freedom in allowing them to use marijuana at appropriate times where their working abilities are not altered, especially after working hours.

The committee noted that Civil Service Commission chair Raymond M. Muña supports the legislation.

Muña stated that while they support the removal of marijuana testing for most government applicants, they recognize the importance of maintaining a workplace that promotes good health and responsible behavior.

The committee also sought comments from the Office of the Attorney General, the Department of Labor, Substance Abuse Addiction and Rehabilitation Program, and Commonwealth Cannabis Commission, but to date, no comments were received from such agencies.

MDA reschedules open house public scoping meetings

ASAN, Guam—The Missile Defense Agency has rescheduled open house public scoping meetings to inform the public about the Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for deploying and operating an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense system on Guam.

Below is information about the upcoming open house public scoping meetings, Proposed Action, and the process for submitting public comments. MDA welcomes the public's comments on the scope of the EIS, potential alternatives, identification of environmental concerns, issues that should be addressed in the EIS, and the project's potential to affect historic properties pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966. The EIS process requires public involvement during the scoping period and when the Draft EIS is available for public review and comment.

MDA will hold three public scoping meetings to inform the public about the Proposed Action and accept comments on the scope of the analysis. The meetings will be in an open-house format and will include poster stations staffed by project representatives who can provide information and answer questions about the Proposed Action and the upcoming environmental impact analysis. The public may arrive at any time between 4pm and 7pm as there will not be a presentation or formal oral comment session. The public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations: Aug. 2, 2023

■ Hilton Guam Resort
Micronesian Room
202 Hilton Rd.
Tumon Bay, GU 96913
Aug. 3, 2023

■ Micronesia Mall
2nd Floor, Next to Macy's Women's
1088 W. Marine Corps Dr.
Dededo, GU 96929
Aug. 4, 2023

■ Hågat Mayor's Office Community Center
Building 393, Route 2
Hågat, GU 96928

PROPOSED ACTION

MDA, with the United States Department of the Army, U.S. Department of the Navy, U.S. Department of the Air Force, and the Federal Aviation Administration as cooperating agencies, is preparing an EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts and potential mitigation of deploying and operating an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense system to defend Guam against advanced missile threats (Proposed Action).

Within the context of homeland defense, Guam is a key strategic location for sustaining and maintaining U.S. influence, deterring adversaries, responding to crises, and maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific. An attack on Guam would be considered a direct attack on the United States and would be met with an appropriate response. Current U.S. forces are capable of defending Guam against regional ballistic missile threats. However, regional missile threats to Guam continue to increase and advance technologically. The U.S. Indo-Pacific Command has identified a requirement for an Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability on Guam as soon as possible to address the rapid evolution of adversary missile threats.

The Proposed Action is to deploy and operate a comprehensive, persistent, 360-degree Enhanced Integrated Air and Missile Defense system to defend Guam against the rapidly evolving threats of missile attacks from regional adversaries. MDA and the Army need to strategically locate and integrate various system components, including a command and control center, radars, sensors, missile launchers, missile interceptors, and support facilities, at multiple sites around Guam. MDA is preparing an EIS to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action, including potential impacts on airspace, natural and cultural resources, socioeconomics, public health and safety, transportation, utilities, and other resource areas.

SUBMITTING COMMENTS

The public is encouraged to submit comments during the scoping period from May 5, 2023, through Aug. 18, 2023. Comments must be postmarked or received online by Aug. 18, 2023, for consideration in the development of the Draft EIS. Comments may be submitted in the following ways:

■ In person: Public scoping meetings
■ Email: info@EIAMD-EIS.com
■ Website: www.mda.mil/system/eiamd.html
■ Mail: ManTech International Corporation
■ Attention: EIAMD EIS Project Support
■ PMB 403
1270 N. Marine Corps Dr., Suite 101
Tamuning, Guam 96913-4331

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106

This public scoping effort will also support additional consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA of 1966 and its implementing regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations Part 800.

MDA is committed to meaningful public involvement and will keep the public informed throughout the development of the EIS. Please help MDA inform the community about the open house public scoping meetings and the intent to prepare an EIS by sharing this information.

Visit the project website at www.mda.mil/system/eiamd.html to learn more about the project. ***(PR)***

GCC Fall semester registration ongoing

There is still time to register for the upcoming Fall semester at Guam Community College. In-person registration is currently ongoing in Building 2000: Monday-Friday from 8am to 5pm and on Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023 from 8am to 12pm. The last day to register for the Fall semester is Friday, Aug. 11, 2023. While the last day to register for adult education courses is Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, classes also start on August 16, 2023.

Services on Saturday will include:

■ Admissions & Registration
■ Student Support
■ Health Center
■ Cashier
■ Financial Aid
■ Academic Advisement

Those interested in registering for the Fall semester should bring:

■ Valid photo identification card
■ High School transcripts
■ Shot record
■ Tax Year 2021 documents (for financial aid)

Students may also register online at GuamCC.edu/Apply. The first day of Fall 2023 semester is Wednesday, Aug. 16, 2023.

For more information, contact John Dela Rosa, GCC assistant director of Communications & Promotions, at 671-735-5638 (office), 671-482-4320 (cell), or john.delarosa@guamcc.edu. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-23-025

AGAG BOOSTER PUMP AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of upgrading the existing Agag Booster Pump Station (AG); rehabilitation of existing Agag concrete sump tank, yard piping, aboveground flowmeter and valve station with concrete pad, and all other appurtenances at the Agag site; renovation of the existing chlorine and electrical building; installation of a new booster pump (triplex system); construction of a new perimeter security fencing and facility lighting at the Agag site; and site improvements and grading. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 185 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **July 12, 2023 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-23-025, Agag Booster Pump and Electrical System Upgrade"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) August 2, 2023,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 17, 2023** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email address dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, CUC P&S, Senior Administrative Technician via address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

DORMANT DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS

The Dormant Deposit Accounts listed below are currently held at the Bank of Saipan and have been inactive. If you believe you have a claim to any of these accounts, please make your claim at the Chalan Lau Lau Head Office, Tinian or Rota Branch of Bank of Saipan before October 1, 2023.

Pursuant to Public Law 18-69, any unclaimed deposits remaining from this list after October 1, 2023 will be paid to the "CNMI Treasurer" and delivered to the Department of Commerce, Banking Division. Therefore, any claims made after October 1, 2023 must be made at the CNMI Department of Commerce, Banking Division.

BANK OF SAIPAN
MARIANAS PRIDE

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John B Mendiola
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Faircenter Corporation
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Saipan, MP 96950

Francis Botlero
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GOV Corporation
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Saipan, MP 96950

Lucila A Rosales
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Saipan, MP 96950

Mei Jun Chen
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Mulan Corporation
DBA Sitong Auto Shop
PMB 1483 Box 10002
Saipan, MP 96950

Norida G Malaca
PO Box 505755
Saipan, MP 96950

PB Properties Inc
BP Hotel
PMB 2318 PO Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950

Qing Hong Chen
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Tinian, MP 96950

Rolex L Toca
PMB 447 Box 10001
Saipan, MP 96950

Skywalker Communications Group, LLC
PMB 1043 Box 10000
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PMB 84 Box 10003
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PMB 626 Box 10003
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Yi-Cheng Chen
PMB 84 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950

Young Kuk Jang
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Saipan, MP 96950

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The funds from these accounts are scheduled to be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of October 2023. This is in compliance with the amendment to Section 20-20.4-015 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Title 20 Department of Commerce Regulations. If your name is listed, please contact the Customer Consultant or Service Manager at First Hawaiian Bank's Gualo Rai or Oleai Branch as soon as possible.

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ABDUL QUADER
P O BOX 502599
SAIPAN MP 96950-2599

ABE UTU MALAE
P O BOX 105
PAGO PAGO AQ 96799

AE KYEONG KIM
P O BOX 8038 SVRB
SAIPAN MP 96950-8038

AL KENN P EGE
P O BOX 5525 CHRB
SAIPAN MP 96950-5525

ALBERTO ORTEGA ALFONSO
P O BOX 503018
SAIPAN MP 96950-3018

ALEJO T DOCTOR JR
P O BOX 502923
SAIPAN MP 96950-2923

ALFRED JUNHO BAEK
PMB 333 BOX 10005
SAIPAN MP 96950-8905

ALJOMAN CORPORATION
ALJOMAN MANPOWER SERVICES
P O BOX 7957 SVRB
SAIPAN MP 96950-7957

ALLAN AGUON LIFOIFOI
P O BOX 505475
SAIPAN MP 96950-4320

ALLIED PACIFIC
ENVIRONMENTAL CORP
PMBA-6 BOX 10001
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

ALVIN S CABILBIL
P O BOX 7654 SVRB
SAIPAN MP 96950-7654

AMANDO B BORITO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-8905

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P O BOX 500071
SAIPAN MP 96950-0071

ANDREW A HOGEBOOM
P O BOX 5745 CHRB
SAIPAN MP 96950-5557

ANDREW LEE COLBURN SR
PMB 87 PO BOX 10001
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

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SAIPAN MP 96950-4319

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ANGELO CASTRO
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APOLINARIO G SAMSON
PMB 257 BOX 10003
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ARIUNBOLD MANAL
BAYANGOL DISTRICT 10TH DISTRICT
5TH KHOROO APT URGUU 68 DOOR
39TH ULAANBAATAR CITY
MONGOLIA 16040
MONGOLIA

ARMIDA C ESPECTACION
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THRIVE VIRTUAL
PO BOX 501766
SAIPAN MP 96950-1766

ASHLEY NORMA H FRITZ
P O BOX 502600
SAIPAN MP 96950-2600

ATSUMI KITSUDA
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SAIPAN MP 96950-8900

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SAIPAN MP 96950-3519

AUGUSTIN MANUEL I CASTRO
P O BOX 503548
SAIPAN MP 96950-3548

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PMB 1886 BOX 10005
SAIPAN MP 96950-8905

AURORA S PARIAL
MARK ANTHONY P MAESTRO
PO BOX 505954CK
SAIPAN MP 96950

BALBINA R SOLBERG
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SAIPAN MP 96950-4306

BASILIO KALEO OLAITIMAN
LORY TAISAKAN OLAITIMAN
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BELARMINO LAYUG FLORES
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SAIPAN MP 96950-1106

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BERNADETTE P CLIMACO
EDWIN U CLIMACO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

BERTRAN A TORRES
PO BOX 10001 PMB 325
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

BIG BOY MARINE SPORTS INC DBA
BIG BOYZ II MARINE
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SAIPAN MP 96950-2555

BING ZHANG
P O BOX 500528
SAIPAN MP 96950-0528

BOBBY SABANGAN DE LEON
P O BOX 504834
SAIPAN MP 96950-4309

BOYER MARKET & MERCHANTRY LLC
GINGER AND SMOKE
P O BOX 503007
SAIPAN MP 96950-3007

BYOONG SEOB CHOI
P O BOX 506161
SAIPAN MP 96950-4332

CALVIN AGUON FITIAL
P O BOX 504326
SAIPAN MP 96950-4301

CARMEN Q BABAUTA
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ROY M REYES
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NEW TAIPEI TAIWAN
TAIWAN

CHENGZI JIN
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CHONG WAN WON
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CHRISTOPHER A DIZON
MYRNA S DIZON
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CHUNHUA JIN
PMB 400 BOX 10001
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

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SAIPAN MP 96950-3330

COMMONWEALTH AUTOMOBILE
DEALERS ASSOC
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SAIPAN MP 96950-0625

CONCHITA VERTUDEZ LAPINIG
PMB 467 BOX 10000
SAIPAN MP 96950-8900

CRISANTA A VILLAS
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CROWNWAY GREEN ENERGY (USA)
COMPANY LIMITED
PMB 328E BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

DAE YOO CORPORATION
SUITE PALMS
P O BOX 501706
SAIPAN MP 96950-1706

DAN LI
PMB 205 BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

DANGXIONG XU
PMB 32 P O BOX 10005
SAIPAN MP 96950-8905

DAREAN JEFFREY F IGUEL
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DAVID M FRAHM
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SAIPAN MP 96950-7853

FEN LI
PMB 278 P O BOX 10000
SAIPAN MP 96950-8900

FENG YU
PMB 111-C P O BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

FERNANDO G ROMO
P O BOX 504782
SAIPAN MP 96950-4309

FRANCIS A BAUTISTA
P O BOX 505594
SAIPAN MP 96950-4322

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P O BOX 501460
SAIPAN MP 96950-1460

FRANKELIX R TRAVILLA
PMB 774 BOX 10005
SAIPAN MP 96950-8905

FRANKIE DALOSA BLAS
P O BOX 8001 SVRB
SAIPAN MP 96950-8001

FRANKLIN KIRK COOK JR
NHU ANH THI LE
P O BOX 502896
SAIPAN MP 96950-2896

GANAAN ENTERPRISE INC
SAIPAN MP 96950-3625

GINA C PONTIVEROS TTEE
EMMANUEL CRUZAT PONTIVEROS BNF
P O BOX 10001 PMB 193
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

GJ S MUKAWA
P O BOX 10002 PMB 4242
SAIPAN MP 96950-8902

GLORIA BAGAO ORPIANO
PMB 114 P O BOX 10002
SAIPAN MP 96950-8902

GLORIA O EBBAY
P O BOX 504040
SAIPAN MP 96950-4040

GON SOON CHUNG LEE
P O BOX 502974
SAIPAN MP 96950-2974

GRACE CORPORATION
P O BOX 502974
SAIPAN MP 96950-2974

GROWING CORPORATION
SELINA TRANSLATION
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SAIPAN MP 96950-2799

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SAIPAN MP 96950

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LISA YANAN ZHOU
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SAIPAN MP 96950-1968

HAZEL B PANAGA
PMB 444 BOX 10000
SAIPAN MP 96950-8900

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TOKYO JAPAN 1080074
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HO CHUN HO
PMB 98 BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

HRS INC
PMB 293 BOX 10001
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

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PMB 33 BOX 10005
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SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

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SAIPAN MP 96950-0306

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SAIPAN MP 96950-4306

JACQUELINE A BONTO
MARIA ELIZABETH ALABATA BONTO
PO BOX 10001 PMB 1440
SAIPAN MP 96950-8901

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The funds from these accounts are scheduled to be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of October 2023. This is in compliance with the amendment to Section 20-20.4-015 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Title 20 Department of Commerce Regulations. If your name is listed, please contact the Customer Consultant or Service Manager at First Hawaiian Bank's Gualo Rai or Oleai Branch as soon as possible.

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MARIA D CABRERA
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SAIPAN MP 96950-3548

JAMES DUENAS CABRERA
PO BOX 503548
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JAN EMMANUEL D BOBADILLA
PMB 307 BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

JAN MIKAELA A TANATE
SAIPAN MP 96950

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P O BOX 501661
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JASON SUMED
ROSEANNE PAULINE S GERMINARO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-8025

JERWIN A RAQUEPO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-4311

JESSIE JAMES Z CEPEDA
NATALIE L COTIN
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SAIPAN MP 96950-4312

JESSY JAMES E FLORA
PMB 659 BOX 10000
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JETHRO DE LA CERNA DINO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-8900

JIA LIN CHEN
PMB 488 P O BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

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SAIPAN MP 96950-1075

JIE CHAN SU
P O BOX 506247
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P O BOX 502912
SAIPAN MP 96950-2912

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SAIPAN MP 96950-7318

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PMB 425 BOX 10000
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JOESUA S RELECH
MAGDALENA ACHEN SAITO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-3455

JOHN E PETER
SAIPAN MP 96950

JOHN GERARDO MASULI
P O BOX 501069
SAIPAN MP 96950-1069

JOHN KENNETH SADJE PARAS
PMB 2782 P O BOX 10002
SAIPAN MP 96950-8902

JOHN MICHAEL B CRUZ
P O BOX 506629
SAIPAN MP 96950-4339

JOHN PETER TEIGITA
PO BOX 500966
SAIPAN MP 96950-0966

JOHNSON ABRAHAM
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SAIPAN MP 96950-4337

JONATHAN D TUAZON
P O BOX 10000 PMB 672
SAIPAN MP 96950-8900

JONATHAN PARAGILE VARGAS
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SAIPAN MP 96950-4326

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SAIPAM MP 96950-8903

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SAIPAN MP 96950-0338

JOSE RAMELO AMOR AUSTRIA
PMB 587 P O BOX 10003
SAIPAN MP 96950-8903

JOSELITO A HERNANDEZ
P O BOX 10005 PMB 1600
SAIPAN MP 96950-8905

JOSELITO F LOPEZ
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SAIPAN MP 96950-4305

JOVOHNI DANIEL LEE SANTOS
P O BOX 503389
SAIPAN MP 96950-3389

JOYBEE LO MANALANG
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SAIPAN MP 96950-0009

JOYCE P CAMACHO
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SAIPAN MP 96950-0204

JOYCE PEI YEE LIM
SAIPAN MP 96950

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO
P O BOX 502866
SAIPAN MP 96950-2866

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO TTEE
REESE NGERDAI BLANCO BNF
P O BOX 502866
SAIPAN MP 96950-2866

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO TTEE
CONSTANCE CELINE S BLANCO BNF
P O BOX 502866
SAIPAN MP 96950-2866

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO TTEE
CONSTANCIA JOSEPHA
WEILBACHER BNF
P O BOX 502866
SAIPAN MP 96950-2866

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO TTEE
KIDEICHI S BLANCO BNF
P O BOX 502866
SAIPAN MP 96950-2866

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO TTEE
GABRIELLE GALES S BLANCO BNF
P O BOX 502866
SAIPAN MP 96950-2866

JUAN DIEGO C BLANCO TTEE
JUAN DIEGO B WEILBACHER BNF
P O BOX 502866
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The funds from these accounts are scheduled to be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of October 2023. This is in compliance with the amendment to Section 20-20.4-015 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code Title 20 Department of Commerce Regulations. If your name is listed, please contact the Customer Consultant or Service Manager at First Hawaiian Bank's Gualo Rai or Oleai Branch as soon as possible.

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Korea's '2TV Live Info Show' showcases The Marianas

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

South Korea's "2TV Live Info Show" films at Mt. Tapochau, the highest point in Saipan in The Marianas, on June 20, 2023, for an episode of the show airing in July 2023.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

South Korea's "2TV Live Info Show" films in The Marianas on June 2023 for an episode of the show airing in July 2023.

One of South Korea's most popular evening primetime broadcast shows—"2TV Live Info Show"—featured The Marianas in two recent episodes, reaching an estimated 3 million viewers.

"2TV Live Info Show," through its "Trip with Soo-Wan" corner, introduced fun and useful travel information about Saipan and Tinian in two 15-minute segments aired on July 5 and 13, 2023. The show is broadcasted nationwide on public broadcast channels and is popular with a wide range of viewers, including office workers and families.

The Marianas Visitors Authority coordinated the media tour and assisted with attaining local sponsorship and filming permits. From its distribution and viewership via broadcast, "over-the-top" (OTT), and YouTube, the shows have generated an estimated $5.4 million in ad exposure value for the destination.

"Through high quality video and media buzz, this month's features on '2TV Live Info Show' have given us another valuable avenue to position The Marianas as an ideal destination for Korean travelers," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Given the show's popularity across the country on KBS2, our message has gone out to millions of potential new visitors. Exposure like this helps The Marianas counter the challenging exchange rate right now, and we anticipate Korea's continued gradual recovery as a top source market for The Marianas."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

South Korea's "2TV Live Info Show" films spearfishing on Tinian in The Marianas on June 18, 2023, for an episode of the show airing in July 2023.

A four-member production team visited Saipan and Tinian in mid-June to film for the show. The media fam tour was also supported by Surfrider Resort Hotel and Coral Ocean Resort. Filming included the 24th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden, Managaha, Sabalu Market, Surf Club, diving at Ice Cream, and an ATV tour on Mt. Tapochau. On Tinian, the crew filmed spearfishing, "donni sali" (hot pepper) picking, Taga Beach, Blow Hole, the main thoroughfare of Broadway, and a beach picnic.

South Korea's "2TV Live Info Show" films spearfishing in Tinian in The Marianas on June 18, 2023, for an episode of the show airing in July 2023. The media fam tour was coordinated by the Marianas Visitors Authority and generated an estimated $5.4 million in ad exposure value for the destination. ***(PR)***

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EDITORIAL

Get the 'forever chemicals' out of our drinking water

A recent study by the U.S. Geological Survey found that nearly half of the drinking water in the United States is contaminated with "forever chemicals," the per- and polyfluoroakyl substances known as PFAS that can cause cancer and other health complications. And Southern California is among a handful of regions nationwide with a higher probability of tap water contaminated with PFAS.

These findings are worrisome, particularly for communities that are already suffering from other sources of pollution. In Los Angeles County, water agencies in cities such as Commerce, Montebello, Monterey Park, Vernon, Downey were found to have PFAS higher than the recommended levels as early as 2019.

Los Angeles County supervisors this week launched an effort to assess the full extent of PFAS contamination in drinking water supplies. It's a good first step, but state and local authorities must do more to ensure drinking water is free of these chemicals, which are found in many household products, including cookware and cosmetics.

PFAS were first classified as an "emerging contaminant" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2016. But little is known about any disparities of PFAS contamination in different ethnic communities or the specific harms this pollution may be inflicting on these communities.

Last month, researchers at the University of Southern California began a new study on the health effects of PFAS contamination in drinking water in Los Angeles County, focusing on the predominantly Latino communities in the east and southeast that are overburdened with environmental pollution. The multidisciplinary study, which involves researchers from USC's medical and engineering schools, aims to develop prevention strategies and large-scale, sustainable remediation solutions that can be implemented in a cost-effective manner.

Lead researcher Lida Chatzi, director of USC's Center for Translational Research on Environmental Health, said previous research has linked exposure to PFAS to nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and metabolic disorders. Other research she has conducted found that a mixture of PFAS can cause the disruption of critical biological processes in youth, increasing the risk of cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, developmental disorders and many types of cancer. In the latest study, scientists will study the effect of newer PFAS that have been created to replace those found to be harmful.

Federal officials have long known that PFAS, which have been detected in the blood of humans and animals, have been linked to many negative health effects and are found in thousands of commercial and industrial products such as nonstick cooking pans, water-repellent outerwear, non-stain food packaging, firefighting foam and many more.

However, government action has been sluggish and too narrowly focused. The Biden administration has proposed the first national drinking water standards for six PFAS, but there are more than 12,000 types.

California has recently banned the use of PFAS in many

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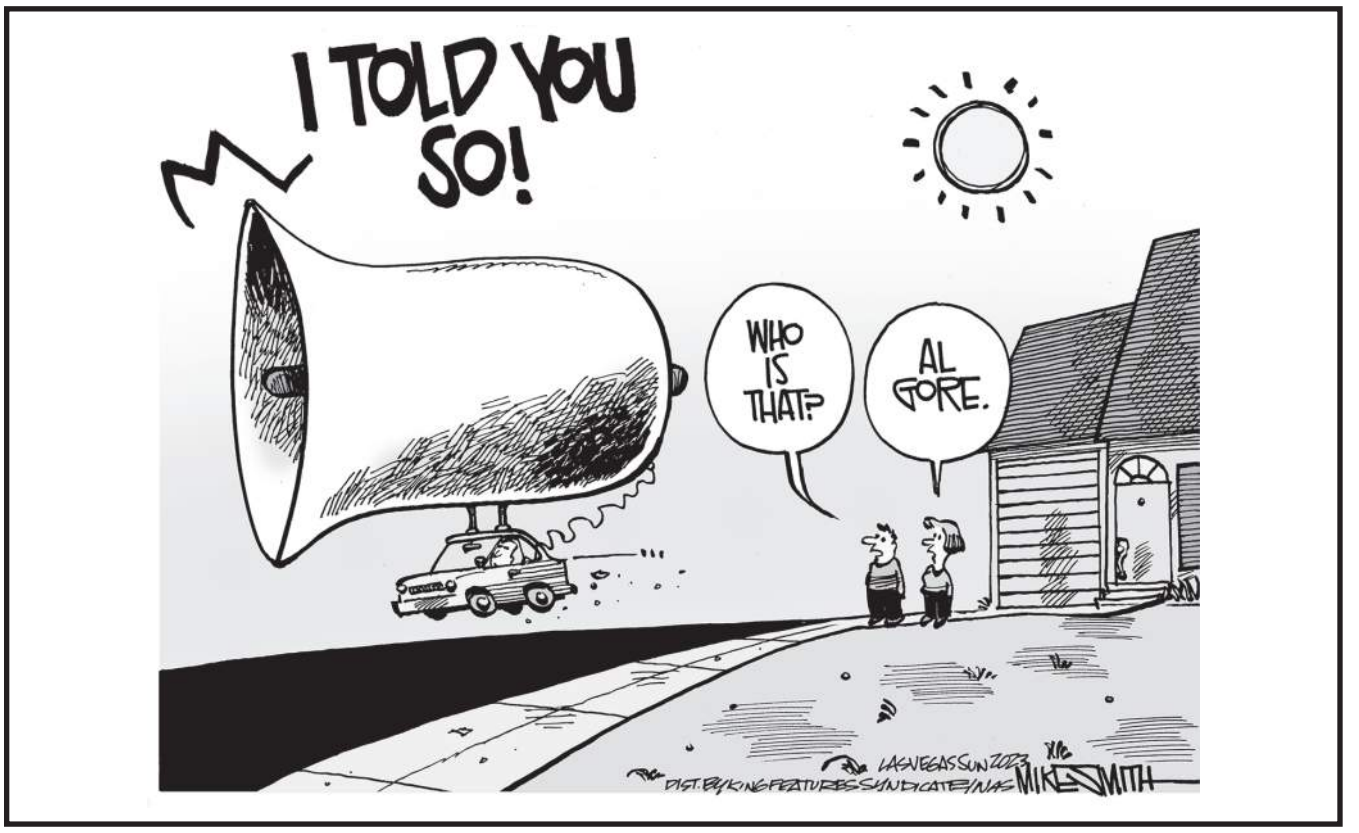

No, immigration and the border are not impossible problems

By CHRISTOPHER M. RICHARDSON
Los Angeles Times

Christopher M. Richardson is an immigration lawyer, former U.S. diplomat and executive at BDV Solutions, an immigration consulting company.

While the end of Title 42 did not lead to the border surges some anticipated, America still faces an immigration crisis, with a backlog of nearly 1.6 million asylum cases. Officials apprehended migrants crossing the border more than 5 million times from February 2021 to March this year, the highest number of arrests in decades.

Border stress and asylum backlogs are not new. Yet instead of learning from the policies of previous generations, politicians are pursuing gimmicks such as busing migrants to the home of Vice President Kamala Harris or pushing base-pleasing immigration bills that stand no chance of passing.

To form a functional legal immigration system, one place both parties may want to look is history.

A major immigration spike in the U.S. came after the end of World War II as we confronted a labor shortage similar to today's. More than 1 million people were apprehended at the border in 1954. In response, immigration authorities increased and expedited legal pathways for migrants through a guest worker system known as the bracero program.

Under the program, immigration authorities interviewed migrants at the border and admitted them as guest workers. Rather than placing a hard numerical cap on migration, the program admitted people based on the needs of the U.S. economy, with California receiving the most workers among the 24 participating states.

Joseph Swing, the head of the Immigration and Naturalization Service at that time, said that "if there is any employer who cannot get legal labor all he has to do is let either the Department of Labor or Immigration know, and we will see that he gets it." The program brought in more than 4 million braceros (so named for a Spanish term to describe laborers who work mostly with their arms). Border apprehensions fell by 96% from 1953 to 1959.

But by the end of 1964, after issues with its implementation, Congress let the bracero program expire. Some participating employers discriminated against and abused the workers. Though the program promised workers wage protections and basic housing, employers frequently paid late or not at all and provided only substandard housing.

The end of the bracero program largely signaled the collapse of a functioning immigration system. Border Patrol apprehensions increased once again from 35,000 to nearly 617,000 by 1974. We never replaced the program with a system to create feasible legal pathways for immigration that could begin to meet the needs of people arriving at the border, or the needs of our labor market. And ending the program did not improve wages for U.S.-born workers.

We did try other reforms. A bipartisan coalition pushed through the 1986 comprehensive immigration bill. Most critically, the act provided a path to legal residency and opportunities for nearly 3 million migrants who entered the country before 1982. But this one-off legislation did not fully tackle our demand for labor, and we hit another crisis by the 1990s. As is the case today, applying for asylum was the most accessible legal mechanism for migrants at the border to remain in the country. A surge of asylum cases overwhelmed the system, creating a huge backlog of cases.

To handle this, immigration authorities under the Clinton administration dramatically increased funding for immigration courts, doubling immigration judges and adding more asylum officers. The changes enabled the courts to meet a six-month deadline for asylum cases and allowed the system as a whole to separate work authorization from asylum applications. These factors decreased asylum cases from more than 147,000 in 1995 to 46,000 by 2003. This, in turn, decreased border crossings.

None of these past solutions was perfect. The bracero program remains controversial largely because of the work conditions it fostered. The 1986 immigration reform bill, while significant, was a one-time legalization that underestimated the labor and familial demands that continually draw migrants to cross our borders. The reforms in the 1990s were criticized for being too strict on some legitimate asylum seekers and leaning too much on deportation.

But some principles driving each approach still apply. Right now we have a system that ridiculously allows only 140,000 employment-based visas per year in a nation with millions of job openings.

We should look at our current temporary work visas — which are essentially smaller scale bracero programs — and stop using hard quotas, instead tying admissions to current economic conditions as we did before. We can also improve upon that approach with stronger protections for migrants by allowing them to change employers more easily and self-petition for permanent residency after several years of work. This would provide migrants with the kind of leverage with their employers that the original bracero participants never had.

As for our asylum system, we need to build back up the immigration courts to meet the current caseload while creating more legal pathways to work authorization beyond applying for asylum and waiting at least 150 days for a resolution (after which point you are allowed to apply for a work permit).

We could implement these changes with the same bipartisan approach that created the 1986 bill, but centered on providing recurring rather than one-time legal pathways for permanent residency.

The policy challenges of immigration won't be solved overnight. But the past shows us that the system is not intractable.

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Should former Manson family member Leslie Van Houten be free?

By CORY FRANKLIN
Chicago Tribune

Dr. Cory Franklin is a retired intensive care physician.

Those who want to see the abolishment of capital punishment, and more liberal parole guidelines, claim such a change would create a more civilized society. Perhaps, but a more civilized society remembers and respects its murder victims. Moreover, certain crimes are so heinous that the perpetrators should never be released from prison. If they are, it ultimately bespeaks contempt for the law. That's why the case of Leslie Van Houten should resonate.

Denied parole at least 20 times since 1971, Van Houten is now free after spending 53 years in a California prison. Gov. Gavin Newsom did not challenge the parole. For those not yet born or who have forgotten, on Aug. 10, 1969, 19-year-old Van Houten accompanied Charles Manson and four other members of the so-called Manson family on a home invasion of the randomly selected house of supermarket executive Leno LaBianca and his wife, Rosemary, in a tony section of Los Angeles.

Once inside, Manson lieutenant Tex Watson stabbed Leno LaBianca to death and handed the knife to Van Houten. She stabbed Rosemary LaBianca more than a dozen more times. The next morning, Rosemary LaBianca's teenage son discovered her husband's body — knife stuck in his neck, carving fork protruding from his stomach and the word "war" carved into his skin.

Van Houten had been inspired when several of the same Manson family members committed the infamous Sharon Tate murders the previous evening. They savagely killed the actress, who was eight months pregnant, and four houseguests. Van Houten was not present, but when the killers returned home and gleefully described the grisly murders, she felt excluded and wanted in on the next murder spree.

The Tate-LaBianca murders generated a frisson of fear across Southern California, shattering the world's image of California as a land of communal bliss. As Van Houten later said, "My crime affected the nation. It brought an end to a time period in the '60s. It impacted other people in other countries, and it continues to."

When they were eventually captured, Van Houten and the other girls pointedly showed no remorse. They demonstrated their solidarity with Manson by carving an "X" in their foreheads. Throughout their trials, they laughed and sneered, while Manson family members not on trial created a circuslike atmosphere.

In 1971, Van Houten was convicted of two counts of first-degree murder and one count of conspiracy to commit murder. She received the death penalty, the youngest woman ever condemned to die in California. Shortly afterward, California abolished the death penalty. After two more trials — she obtained a new trial because her lawyer died mysteriously during the first trial — she was finally convicted and sentenced to seven years to life in prison — with the possibility of parole.

Van Houten took advantage of marriage privileges and conjugal visits then allowed by the California prison system. She married a male inmate, but they divorced after two months. Watson, in prison for life, married a woman from the outside, and the couple had four children together, all conceived during conjugal visits. That's four more children than Sharon Tate was allowed to have.

From a legal standpoint, Van Houten has met all the standards for parole. She has been the typical "model prisoner" with college degrees (always a go-to for parole boards). She checked all the boxes: teacher, active in substance abuse programs, energetic volunteer.

A teacher who worked with Van Houten in prison, Angela Cardinale, wrote in the Los Angeles Times, "It was difficult to reconcile the woman in front of me with the crimes she had committed," Cardinale said. "Leslie is a good person who did a bad thing."

How does one distinguish a good person who once did a bad thing — a really bad thing, she might have added — from a bad person who now does good things?

Those are the legal arguments, but beyond that, what do we owe the forgotten victims? The investigators, attorneys and judges originally involved in the Tate-LaBianca murders — those with firsthand knowledge — are either dead or very old. The victims have become distant memories, mere factual abstractions in the current bloodless legal arguments by lawyers in front of judges, most of whom were small children or not yet born at the time of the murders. When the LaBiancas were murdered, Van Houten's attorney was a young schoolgirl; Newsom was not quite 2 years old.

Time is long and human memory short, especially where murder is concerned. The pattern is familiar: Years pass and then decades, and murder victims are eventually forgotten by most people except their families. The victims are gradually replaced in the public consciousness by their murderers, who, if they live long enough, can morph into sympathetic figures resembling harmless, elderly victims themselves.

The most recent photographs from her final parole hearing show a grandmotherly Van Houten, who doesn't look like she could hurt a fly. Gray hair neatly tied in a bun, she is a far cry from the wild-haired young woman who once laughed in the courtroom at the victims' suffering. The contemptuous "X" carved in her forehead, prominent as late as 1999 in a television interview, is no longer visible.

Probably a quite effective makeup job.

A civil rights conspiracy charge matches Donald Trump's alleged crimes

By PATRICK DEADY
Chicago Tribune

Patrick Deady is an Illinois attorney and a former trial attorney in the Criminal Section of the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division and a former assistant U.S. attorney in Chicago and Baltimore.

When it finally leaked that one of the three possible criminal offenses referenced in the target letter sent to Donald Trump by the special counsel involved the civil rights conspiracy statute, some commentators' knee-jerk reaction was that this was a novel charge, an unexpected and untested legal theory. It was proof, in other words, that the special counsel's case was too weak to support the more compelling case recommended by the Jan. 6 committee — giving aid and comfort to an insurrection.

But, at least from what we know publicly, a civil rights conspiracy is exactly what happened — the former president attempted to overturn a presidential election.

Here, the former president's alleged conduct is well within the established scope of the civil rights conspiracy statue, Section 241 of the federal criminal code. Historically, it was a part of what came to be known as the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871, passed after the ratification of the 15th Amendment, which guaranteed all citizens, regardless of race or "previous condition of servitude," the right to vote. That amendment, and the Ku Klux Klan Act, were deemed necessary by the 1870 Congress, despite the new freedoms ensured in the 13th and 14th amendments, because of a wave of killings and assaults by the Klan specifically designed to keep Black people from voting for candidates of their choice.

Later application of this conspiracy statute in other contexts confirmed that Congress intended it to be an expansive protection of all federal rights and privileges — broad enough to include criminal interference with any federal election.

In United States v. Price, a landmark 1966 civil rights decision, the Supreme Court held that Section 241 protected the exercise of all rights and privileges secured to citizens under all of the Constitution and all of the laws of the United States. That case specifically involved the murders of three civil rights workers in Mississippi who were denied their right to due process, not the right to vote.

But in the 1974 ruling for Anderson v. the U.S., Justice Thurgood Marshall, writing for the court, recognized that it has long been settled that Section 241 embraces a conspiracy to stuff the ballot boxes in a federal election "thereby to dilute the value of votes of qualified voters." In so holding, Marshall cited three Supreme Court cases dating to 1915, all holding that diluting the value of a person's vote violated this statute.

Under those cases, and cases brought by the Justice Department since, a scheme to not just dilute votes but also to completely negate the votes of more than 81 million Americans who voted for Joe Biden for president would clearly fall within the scope of a civil rights conspiracy.

It is also worth noting that this conspiracy statute was drafted in a way to reach the most dangerous conduct threatening the country at that time. Like the seditious conspiracy statute, Section 241 does not require separate proof of an overt act "in furtherance of the conspiracy" like most of the other federal conspiracy laws. What that means is that a mere agreement to "injure, oppress, threaten or intimidate" any person in the free exercise of their rights and privileges secured by the Constitution and laws of the United States is enough. Thus, an agreement to disenfranchise voters qualified to cast ballots, either in the November 2020 election or as the lawfully selected electors in that election, even if unsuccessful, is enough to subject those conspirators to imprisonment for up to 10 years.

For all these reasons, Section 241 might just be the perfect fit for what the former president and others are alleged to have clearly done to try to keep him in office.

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products, such as cosmetics, clothes, food packaging, cribs and firefighting foam. This year, state lawmakers are considering legislation that would ban the chemicals in products such as artificial turf and menstrual underwear, pads, tampons and other items. These moves may lower our exposure to PFAS, but scientists say this is not enough. Contamination of PFAS is so widespread it requires action from multiple government agencies to regulate PFAS levels in water systems, implement large-scale removal of existing PFAS and prevent future contamination.

Their persistent toxicity may add an extremely dangerous layer of pollution if detected in communities already struggling with environmental damage, such as those in southeast Los Angeles County. The Biden administration's plan to tackle PFAS contamination includes a grant program for disadvantaged neighborhoods, but the burden for initiating remediation should not fall on these communities.

Each new study on PFAS has only uncovered more evidence of their omnipresence in our lives. This means that federal regulators should consider banning all PFAS as a class, as recommended by many scientists. More research is needed to assess the full range of harmful effects and to find sustainable ways to remove these toxins from drinking water. This will be particularly important as California and other states consider reusing wastewater to help replenish groundwater supplies, a move scientists believe will increase PFAS toxicity in our water.

The findings of the USGS study were not entirely surprising, but they should not be ignored.

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Business

United first US airline to add braille to cabin interiors

CHICAGO, IL—United became the first U.S. airline to add Braille to aircraft interiors, helping millions of travelers with visual disabilities more easily navigate the cabin independently.

According to the Department of Transportation, about 27 million people with disabilities traveled by air in 2019.

The airline currently has equipped about a dozen aircraft with Braille markings for individual rows and seat numbers as well as inside and outside the lavatories. United expects to outfit its entire mainline fleet with Braille by the end of 2026.

UNITED

United expects to outfit its entire mainline fleet with Braille by the end of 2026.

"Finding your seat on a plane or getting to the restroom is something most of us take for granted, but for millions of our customers, it can be a challenge to do independently," said Linda Jojo, Executive Vice President, Chief Customer Officer for United. "By adding more tactile signage throughout our interiors, we're making the flying experience more inclusive and accessible, and that's good for everyone."

In addition to adding Braille, United is working with the National Federation of the Blind (NFB), the American Council of the Blind (ACB) and other disability advocacy groups to explore the use of other tactile navigational aids throughout the cabin such as raised letters, numbers and arrows.

"We applaud United for taking an important step toward making its aircraft more accessible to blind passengers," said NFB President Mark Riccobono. "The flight experience is often frustrating for a number of reasons, one of which is the amount of information that is available exclusively through printed signs and other visual indicators. We hope to continue working with United to explore additional ways to make flying more accessible and less stressful for blind passengers."

For the eighth-straight year, United was recognized as a Best Place to Work for Disability Inclusion and earned a top score on the Disability Equality Index benchmarking tool, a joint initiative of the American Association of People with Disabilities and Disability:IN, to advance the inclusion of people with disabilities.

"United is taking additional steps to create an accessible airline passenger experience through braille signage," said ACB Interim Executive Director Dan Spoone. "We appreciate the airline's continued exploration of additional in-flight navigational aids like large print and tactile indicators, and we encourage all airlines to follow United's lead in making air travel more inclusive for the blind and low vision community."

The rollout of Braille to mainline aircraft over the next few years is the latest way United has worked to create accessible solutions for its customers and employees:

■ The United mobile app was recently redesigned to make it easier to use for people with visual disabilities with increased color contrast, more space between graphics and reordering how information is displayed and announced to better integrate with the screen reader technologies like VoiceOver and TalkBack.

■ United's Inflight Seatback Entertainment screens offer a wide range of accessible features such as closed captioning, text-to-speech controls, magnification, explore-by-touch capabilities, audio-described movies, and adjustable and high-contrast text and color correction. As part of United Next, the airline's historic growth plan, the carrier expects to take delivery of about 700 new narrow and widebody aircraft by the end of 2032, all of which will include the latest in seatback screen entertainment options.

■ Through Bridge, United's Business Resource Group for people of all abilities, employees help create a workplace environment where all can strive to achieve their maximum potential and support our commitment to being an ally for customers with disabilities.

■ United's long-standing partnership with Special Olympics provides employment opportunities to athletes through the Special Olympics Service Ambassador program, a workforce development initiative that provides a forum to work alongside Airport Operations and Customer Service teams to assist customers. The airline also supports Special Olympics through volunteerism, fundraising and travel support to attend national and international competitions. ***(PR)***

Skepticism prevails as China promise to back private biz

BEIJING (AP)—The Fangbiaogan Real Estate Agency in the southern city of Nanning is still waiting for China's post-COVID rebound.

Home sales are 30-40% below last year's depressed level after the economy barely grew in the latest quarter, according to the owner, who would give only his surname, Cai. He has cut staff by 80% to 40 employees. Their income from sales commissions has fallen as much as 90%.

"People are worried," said Cai. "They feel safer holding onto their savings instead of spending them."

Chinese leader Xi Jinping's government is making ambitious promises to drag the economy out of that crisis of confidence aggravated by tension with Washington, wilting exports, job losses and anxiety among foreign companies about an expanded anti-spying law.

Its most striking pledge: To support entrepreneurs who generate jobs and wealth but have felt under attack over the past decade as the ruling Communist Party built up state-owned industry, tightened control over business and pressured them to pay for its technology and industrial ambitions.

China has an "urgent need" to "boost confidence in the outlook for the private economy," the Cabinet said in a July 19 announcement.

Entrepreneurs and investors are waiting to see what tax, spending or other steps the ruling party might take — and whether it will rein in state companies that dominate banking, energy and other industries and that economists say are stifling growth.

The ruling party took action after the economy grew by just 0.8% in the three months ending in June from the previous quarter, down from 2.2% growth in January-March. That is equal to a 3.2% annual rate, among China's weakest in decades.

With households anxious about possible job losses, retail sales growth slid to 3.1% in June from the previous month's 12.7%.

"Policymakers have underestimated the difficulty in boosting the confidence of households and private companies," Macquarie economists Larry Hu and Yuxiao Zhang said in a report. China needs a "reset in macro and regulatory policies to make them more pro-growth and pro-business," they said.

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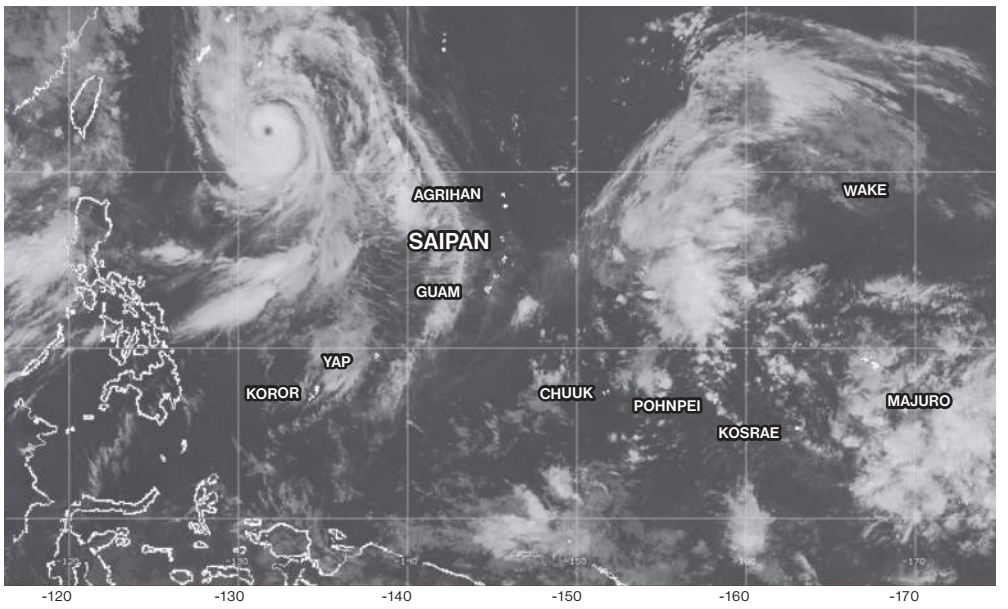
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Isolated showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
86° 78°	86° 78°	86° 79°	84° 79°	86° 81°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:08 AM, MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows a northwest to southeast line of showers extending from near Saipan to east of the Guam Waters then farther southeast. The line is moving very slowly, so it will stay over Saipan for a while, and not reach Guam for at least a few more hours. The Ipan buoy reveals an east swell of around 2 feet. Computer model guidance shows a west swell of 4 to 6 feet, which will dominate the combined seas, which will continue through Tuesday before beginning to diminish.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Isolated Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Scattered Thunderstorms	84° / 79°
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Pohnpei	Scattered Thunderstorms	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Scattered Thunderstorms	85° / 79°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	62° / 51°
Beijing	Thunderstorms	83° / 76°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 76°
London	Partly Cloudy	72° / 60°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	87° / 69°
Manila	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	59° / 42°
Miami	Thunderstorms	89° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	85° / 65°
Osaka	Isolated Thunderstorms	95° / 80°
Paris	Showers	72° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	87° / 79°
Rome	Mostly Sunny	89° / 71°
Salem	Sunny	94° / 71°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	67° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	96° / 79°
Tokyo	Cloudy	91° / 80°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	86° / 65°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:59 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Thursday	5:59 AM	6:46 PM
Friday	6:00 AM	6:46 PM
Saturday	6:00 AM	6:45 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:57 AM	6:33 PM
Wednesday	-	6:06 AM	7:28 PM
Thursday	-	7:12 AM	8:17 PM
Friday	-	8:15 AM	9:02 PM
Saturday	-	9:14 AM	9:44 PM

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:56 AM	Low Tide	1.52
5:49 AM	High Tide	2.18
1:23 PM	Low Tide	-0.45
8:39 PM	High Tide	2.13

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 19, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1, 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

7C3467	3:00AM	7:10AM	Daily up to July 20
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
TW9308	4:45AM	8:45AM	1, 5 July 17 to Aug 18
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7 from July 21

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1, 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA189	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA192	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3468	8:20PM	1:50AM+1	Daily up to July 19
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
TW9307	10:00PM	3:45AM+1	6, 4 July 23 to Aug 20
7C3405	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7 from July 20

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Nation

Joe Biden needs young voters to win again

By WILL WEISSERT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

At 24, Alberto Rodriguez has grandparents younger than Joe Biden. But he's more interested in the 80-year-old president's accomplishments than his age.

"People as young as me, we're all focusing on our day-to-day lives and he has done things to help us through that," Rodriguez, a cook at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino in Las Vegas, said of Biden's support among young voters. Rodriguez pointed specifically to federal COVID-19 relief payments and government spending increases on infrastructure and other social programs.

Voters like him were a key piece of Biden's winning 2020 coalition, which included majorities of young people as well as college graduates, women, urban and suburban voters and Black Americans. Maintaining their support will be critical in closely contested states such as Nevada, where even small declines could prove consequential to Biden's reelection bid.

His 2024 campaign plans to emphasize messages that could especially resonate with young people in the coming weeks as the anniversary of the sweeping Inflation Reduction Act approaches in mid-August. That legislation includes provisions that the White House will embrace to argue that Biden has done more than any other president to combat climate change.

AP

President Joe Biden looks to Delaware State University students as he speaks about student loan debt relief at the university on Oct. 21, 2022, in Dover, Del.

Such efforts, however, could collide with Biden's personal reality — like when he recalled that, while attending a St. Patrick's Day parade at age 14, he appeared in a photo with President Harry S. Truman.

"Purely by accident — I assume it was an accident — the photographer from the newspaper got a picture of me making eye contact with Harry Truman," Biden said to chuckles last week at the Truman Civil Rights Symposium in Washington.

In 2020, 61% of voters under age 30 — and 55% of those between 30 and 44 — supported Biden, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the electorate.

It's an age group with which Republicans hope to make inroads. Former President Donald Trump, who is the early front-runner in the GOP presidential primary and is only 3 1/2 years younger than Biden, said Friday, "We are hitting the young person's market like nobody's ever seen before."

Kevin Munoz, a spokesman for Biden's campaign, referred to Trump's "Make America Great Again" movement in arguing that "young people are acutely impacted by the issues front and center in this election, driven by the extreme MAGA agenda." He said that included inaction on climate change, gun violence and student debt.

"We will meet younger Americans where they are and turn their energy into action," Munoz said in a statement.

That might not defuse questions about age, though, when it comes to Biden or Trump.

"There's a frustration and exhaustion that they feel with the rematch," Terrance Woodbury, co-founder & CEO of the Democratic polling firm HIT Strategies, said of young voters.

"That's more of a problem than either of those two candidates individually, is that a system can just keep reproducing," Woodbury added. "And I think a lot of people just find that untenable."

An April poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that just 25% of Democrats under 45 said they would definitely support Biden in a general election, compared with 56% of older Democrats. A majority of Democrats across age groups said they would probably support him as the party's nominee, however.

Biden's campaign is relying heavily on the Democratic National Committee, which during last year's midterms, hired campus organizers in Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Michigan, Arizona and other battleground states and offered weekly youth coordinating meetings to encourage in-class contacts and "dormstorms." The DNC sees young people as some of the most critical voters it will need to reach in 2024 and promises "significant investments" to mobilize them. Plans are underway to expand on its work last cycle, including trainings it held on how best to turn out voters.

ACROSS THE NATION

Mar-a-Lago worker charged in Trump's classified documents case to make first court appearance

MIAMI (AP)—An employee of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate, Carlos De Oliveira, is expected to make his first court appearance Monday on charges accusing him of scheming with the former president to hide security footage from investigators probing Trump's hoarding of classified documents. De Oliveira, Mar-a-Lago's property manager, was added last week to the indictment with Trump and the former president's valet, Walt Nauta, in the federal case alleging a plot to illegally keep top-secret records at Trump's Florida estate and thwart government efforts to retrieve them. De Oliveira faces charges including conspiracy to obstruct justice and lying to investigators. He's scheduled to appear before a magistrate judge in Miami nearly two months after Trump pleaded not guilty in the case brought by special counsel Jack Smith.

Idaho mom faces sentencing in deaths of 2 children, romantic rival

ST. ANTHONY, Idaho (AP)—Idaho mother Lori Vallow Daybell faces up to life in prison without parole Monday as she is sentenced in the murders of her two youngest children and a romantic rival in a case that included bizarre claims that her son and daughter were zombies and that she was a goddess sent to usher in the Biblical apocalypse. Vallow Daybell was found guilty in May of killing her two youngest children, 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and 16-year-old Tylee Ryan, as well as conspiring to kill Tammy Daybell, her fifth husband's previous wife. The husband, Chad Daybell, is awaiting trial on the same murder charges. Vallow Daybell also faces two other cases in Arizona—one on a charge of conspiring with her brother to kill her fourth husband, Charles Vallow, and one of conspiring to kill her niece's ex-husband. Charles Vallow was shot and killed in 2019, but her niece's ex survived an attempt later that year. Monday's sentencing will take place at the Fremont County Courthouse in St. Anthony, Idaho.

Erratic winds challenge firefighters battling two major California blazes

MOJAVE NATIONAL PRESERVE, Calif. (AP)—A massive wildfire burning out of control in California's Mojave National Preserve was spreading rapidly amid erratic winds, while firefighters reported progress against another major blaze to the southwest that prompted evacuations. The York Fire that erupted Friday near the remote Caruthers Canyon area of the vast wildland preserve crossed the state line into Nevada on Sunday and sent smoke further east into the Las Vegas Valley. Wind-driven flames 20 feet (6 meters) high in some spots charred more than 110 square miles (284 square kilometers) of desert scrub, juniper and Joshua tree woodland, according to an incident update. There was zero containment. "The dry fuel acts as a ready ignition source, and when paired with those weather conditions it resulted in long-distance fire run and high flames, leading to extreme fire behavior," the update said. No structures were threatened.

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The following Checking Accounts have been inactive with BankPacific for at least six months and Savings Accounts for at least two years. The account owner should immediately contact the BankPacific Saipan Branch, Garapan at (670) 233-4752. The funds of each inactive account will be transferred to the Commonwealth Treasurer during the month of October 2023 (pursuant to Public Law 18-69). After such transfer, all inquiries pertaining to the account should be directed to the Commonwealth Treasurer.

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Asia

US says Taiwan to receive $345M military aid package

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States has announced $345 million in military aid for Taiwan, in what is the Biden administration's first major package drawing on America's own stockpiles to help Taiwan counter China.

The White House said Friday the package would include defense, education and training for the Taiwanese. Washington will send man-portable air defense systems, or MANPADS, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles, according to two U.S. officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

U.S. lawmakers have been pressuring the Pentagon and White House to speed weapons to Taiwan. The goals are to help it counter China and to deter China from considering attacking, by providing Taipei enough weaponry that it would make the price of invasion too high.

While Chinese diplomats protested the move, Taiwan's representative office in the U.S. said the administration's decision to pull arms and other materiel from its stores provided "an important tool to support Taiwan's self-defense." In a statement, it pledged to work with the United States to maintain "peace, stability and the status quo across the Taiwan Strait."

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense also expressed its appreciation in a statement that thanked "the U.S. for its firm commitment to Taiwan's security."

The package is in addition to nearly $19 billion in military sales of F-16s and other major weapons systems that the U.S. has approved for Taiwan. Delivery of those weapons has been hampered by supply chain issues that started during the COVID-19 pandemic and have been exacerbated by the global defense industrial base pressures created by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The difference is that this aid is part of a presidential authority approved by Congress last year to draw weapons from current U.S. military stockpiles — so Taiwan will not have to wait for military production and sales. This gets weapons delivered faster than providing funding for new weapons.

The Pentagon has used a similar authority to get billions of dollars worth of munitions to Ukraine.

Taiwan split from China in 1949 amid civil war. Chinese President Xi Jinping maintains China's right to take over the now self-ruled island, by force if necessary. China has accused the U.S. of turning Taiwan into a "powder keg" through the billions of dollars in weapons sales it has pledged.

The U.S. maintains a "One China" policy under which it does not recognize Taiwan's as an independent country and has no formal diplomatic relations with the island in deference to Beijing. However, U.S. law requires a credible defense for Taiwan and for the U.S. to treat all threats to the island as matters of "grave concern."

Getting stockpiles of weapons to Taiwan now, before an attack begins, is one of the lessons the U.S. has learned from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Pentagon deputy defense secretary Kathleen Hicks told The Associated Press earlier this year.

Ukraine "was more of a cold-start approach than the planned approach we have been working on for Taiwan, and we will apply those lessons," Hicks said. Efforts to resupply Taiwan after a conflict erupted would be complicated because it is an island, she said.

China regularly sends warships and planes across the center line in the Taiwan Strait that provides a buffer between the sides, as well as into Taiwan's air defense identification zone, in an effort to intimidate the island's 23 million people and wear down its military capabilities.

Liu Pengyu, a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington, said in a statement that Beijing was "firmly opposed" to U.S. military ties with Taiwan. The U.S. should "stop selling arms to Taiwan" and "stop creating new factors that could lead to tensions in the Taiwan Strait," Liu said.

Suicide bomber at political rally in Pakistan kills at least 44 people

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A small Philippine ferry turned upside down when passengers suddenly crowded to one side in panic as fierce winds pummeled the wooden vessel, leaving at least 26 people dead while 40 others were rescued, officials said Friday.

Coast guard and police said search and rescue efforts had resumed after a pause Thursday night. Officials said it remained unclear how many people were aboard the M/B Princess Aya, which capsized Thursday in Laguna de Bay in Rizal province east of Manila.

When people rushed to one side of the vessel amid severe winds, the boat tilted and its outrigger broke, then the boat capsized shortly after leaving a wharf in the town of Binangonan for nearby Talim island, police and the coast guard said.

The accident happened only about 46 meters (150 feet) from shore, officials said at a news conference.

The Rizal provincial police said that they immediately launched a rescue operation with the help of the coast guard and other local authorities, but that at least 26 people drowned. Forty others were saved.

"This is really a tragic event that has to be investigated," coast guard Rear Adm. Hostillo Arturo Cornelio told reporters.

The ferry was supposed to carry a maximum of 42 passengers and crewmembers but was overloaded, Cornelio said. He said investigators would also look into reports that the passengers were not wearing life vests as required by safety regulations.

Asked how many people were on the boat, Cornelio said it was unclear if there were more than the 66 who died or were save. "We assume there could be more," he said.

The search was continuing Friday.

A video released by the coast guard showed rescuers on a local government boat pulling a body out of the lake. Another video showed local fishermen aboard vessels approaching the overturned boat.

Typhoon Doksuri blew away Thursday after battering the northern Philippines and whipping up seasonal monsoon rains in a large swath of the archipelago.

The capsizing brought the death toll from a week of stormy weather across the main island of Luzon to 39. At least 13 people were reported killed earlier due to Doksuri's onslaught, mostly due to landslides, flooding and toppled trees and thousands were displaced, disaster response officials said.

Sea travel was suspended in many ports during Doksuri's onslaught from Tuesday to Wednesday, stranding thousands of passengers and cargo trucks. The no-sail orders were gradually lifted Thursday as weather improved in many areas.

World

Ukraine reportedly attacks Moscow and border region

AP

Investigators examine a damaged skyscraper in the "Moscow City" business district after a reported drone attack in Moscow, Russia, early Sunday, July 30, 2023.

Ukraine brought the war far from the front line into the heart of Russia again Sunday in drone penetrations that Russian authorities said damaged two office buildings a few miles (kilometers) from the Kremlin and a pig breeding complex on the countries' border.

The attacks, which Ukraine didn't acknowledge in keeping with its security policy, reflected a pattern of more frequent and deeper cross-border strikes the Kyiv government has launched since starting a counteroffensive against Russian forces in June. A precursor and the most dramatic of the strikes happenned in May on the Kremlin itself, the seat of power in the capital, Moscow.

Sunday's was the fourth such strike on the capital region this month and the third this week, showing Moscow's vulnerability as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its 18th month.

The Russian Defense Ministry said three drones targeted the city in an "attempted terrorist attack by the Kyiv regime." Air defenses shot down one drone in Odintsovo in the surrounding Moscow region, while two others were jammed and crashed into the Moscow City business district.

Photos and video showed that a drone had ripped off part of the facade of a modern skyscraper, IQ-Quarter, located 7.2 kms (4.5 miles) from the Kremlin. When the drone hit, sparks, flames and smoke spewed from the building, with debris falling on the sidewalk and street. Windows were blown out, and metal window frames were mangled. A security guard was injured, Russia's state news agency Tass reported, citing emergency officials. Russia's Ria-Novosti news agency reported the building's tenants included several government agencies.

Flights were temporarily suspended at Moscow's Vnukovo airport, and the airspace over Moscow and the outlying regions was temporarily closed.

President Vladimir Putin, who was in his hometown of St. Petersburg at the time of the attempted attacks for meetings with African leaders and a naval celebration, was briefed, his spokesman said.

Ukrainian officials didn't acknowledge the attacks but President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address: "Gradually, the war is returning to the territory of Russia — to its symbolic centers and military bases, and this is an inevitable, natural and absolutely fair process."

UN forced to cut food aid to millions because of funding crisis

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations has been forced to cut food, cash payments and assistance to millions of people in many countries because of "a crippling funding crisis" that has seen its donations plummet by about half as acute hunger is hitting record levels, a top official said Friday.

Carl Skau, deputy executive director of the World Food Program, told a news conference that at least 38 of the 86 countries where WFP operates have already seen cuts or plan to cut assistance soon — including Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen and West Africa.

He said WFP's operating requirement is $20 billion to deliver aid to everyone in need, but it was aiming for between $10 billion and $14 billion, which was what the agency had received in the past few years.

"We're still aiming at that, but we have only so far this year gotten to about half of that, around $5 billion," Skau said.

He said humanitarian needs were "going through the roof" in 2021 and 2022 because of the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine and its global implications. "Those needs continue to grow, those drivers are still there," he said, "but the funding is drying up. So we're looking at 2024 (being) even more dire."

"The largest food and nutrition crisis in history today persists," Skau said. "This year, 345 million people continue to be acutely food insecure while hundreds of millions of people are at risk of worsening hunger."

Skau said conflict and insecurity remain the primary drivers of acute hunger around the world, along with climate change, unrelenting disasters, persistent food price inflation and mounting debt stress — all during a slowdown in the global economy.

WFP is looking to diversify its funding base, but he also urged the agency's traditional donors to "step up and support us through this very difficult time."

Asked why funding was drying up, Skau said to ask the donors.

"But it's clear that aid budgets, humanitarian budgets, both in Europe and the United States, (are) not where they were in 2021-2022," he said.

Overdrive

Auto review: A streamlined sweetheart of an EV, the 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6

By LARRY PRINTZ
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

For Hyundai's newest battery electric vehicle, the 2023 Ioniq 6, designers did something unthinkable: They sought inspiration from 1930s Art Deco streamliners. Honing in on two cars most car buyers have never seen, the 1934-39 Stout Scarab and the 1938 Phantom Corsair, they have produced a swoopy teardrop of a sedan with the hard edges of a harbor seal.

In fact, the 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6 looks nothing like the like the Ioniq 5, which resembles a postmodern hot hatch. But the Ioniq 6's streamlined silhouette allows and cab-forward design provides for a spacious cabin with a generous 39.2 inches of rear legroom. So it's no exercise in nostalgia, but rather a contemporary design that's informed by the past, but not ruled by it.

The proof is inside, where savvy designers have unleashed a symphony of texture and contemporary design. It's hard not to be impressed, regardless of where your eyes fall. Consider the steering wheel hub, where you'd expect to see the Hyundai logo. Instead, you'll find four dots, Morse Code for the letter H. And the dots are functional, lighting up in different colors to notify drivers of different conditions. Or gaze at the flat center console that provides a place to lay your smartphone; the space underneath it is a great place to stash a purse or man bag. Even the door panels are interesting, with a rippled texture that transforms into something wickedly cool at night when hit by the car's ambient lighting. It changes color as the car's speed changes.

TNS

The 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6 has a streamlined silhouette allows and cab-forward design provides for a spacious cabin with a generous 39.2 inches of rear legroom.

On the instrument panel reside two 12.3-inch screens, one the instrument cluster, the other the infotainment touchscreen behind a single sheet of glass. This is contemporary car design at its finest.

The 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6 lineup starts with the $41,600 rear-wheel-drive SE Standard Range model, with a 53-kWh battery, 149 horsepower, 258 pound-feet of torque, a 240-mile range, and a 0-60 time of nearly 9 seconds. Stepping up to the rear-wheel-drive SE brings with it a larger 77-kWh battery, 225 horsepower, while torque remains unchanged. But its range grows to 361 miles. Of course, that's with 18-inch wheels. Opt for the rear-wheel-drive SEL or Limited and their stickier 20-inch wheels, and range declines to 305 miles.

But say you want all-wheel drive? Then you get a front motor as well as a rear one, endowing the Hyundai Ioniq 6 with 320 horsepower and 446 pound-feet of torque, enough to launch this lovely lozenge to 60 mph in about five seconds.

TNS

Recharging is quick by contemporary standards on the 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6.

TNS

The 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6 instrument panel has two 12.3-inch screens, one the instrument cluster, the other the infotainment touchscreen behind a single sheet of glass.

Range on the all-wheel drive SE is 316 miles with 18-inch wheels, while SEL and Limited models will run 270 miles with their 20-inch wheels. Our all-wheel drive Limited test car, $57,429 as tested, was shod with 20-inch Pirelli P Zero footwear. Grippy, but the Pirellis rob the car of range.

Recharging is quick by contemporary standards, as the Ioniq 6 can handle up to 800 volts, allowing for a maximum recharge rate of 350 kW. That translates into a 10-80% recharge time of 18 minutes, or 65 miles of range in 5 minutes. Using a 240-volt outlet at home takes a bit longer, more than seven hours, but that's a full recharge.

But no matter many electrons you use up, you'll find it to be worth it.

Driving a top-of-the-line all-wheel-drive Ioniq 6 brings it a healthy 446 pound-feet of torque, meaning that you'll have a mammoth amount of speed and power available in an instant. Its power is aided by agile cornering prowess. Given its fancy footwear, hundreds of pounds of batteries and handling proficiency, it's little surprise that the Ioniq 6's ride is very firm. And you'll find the seats to be well-bolstered, but very firm as well.

And it's quieter than a college library on Saturday night.

Yet as good as its performance is — and it's very good indeed — you'll find cargo space is a meager 11.2 cubic feet in back and a half-cubic foot up front, so pack lightly. Then again, high fashion has its price.

Nonetheless, the 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6 is rarefied gem of a sedan, a modern take on classic 1930s streamliner that feels cutting edge contemporary thanks to a hefty measure of panache. But look closer and you'll find exquisite attention to detail, along with quick acceleration, rapid recharging and a spacious cabin.

And it looks like nothing else on the road today. And in age when more than 7-in-10 new vehicles sold today is a pickup truck or SUV, the 2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6 is a refreshing change of pace, and an example of how yesterday's designs can fuel tomorrow's electric vehicle promise.

NUTS & BOLTS

2023 Hyundai Ioniq 6

Base price: $41,400-$56,100
Powertrain: Dual permanent-magnet synchronous motors, 1-speed transmission and all-wheel drive
EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 111/94 mpg-e
Range: 270 miles
Length/Width/Height: 191/74/58.9 inches
Ground clearance: 5.6 inches
Payload: 940 pounds
Cargo capacity: 11.7 cubic feet (combined front and rear)
Towing capacity: Not rated

What's causing that sound?

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Q: My 2007 Chevy Cobalt LT, with approximately 90,000 miles, has developed what I describe as the soft sound of a small plane propeller. I do not hear it as it idles but as soon as I drive, and the rpms rise above 2,000, I hear it. This sound appears suddenly from one day to the next.

—J.A., Cetronia, Pennsylvania

A: Although there is a panoply of possible propeller noise sources, I would check for a cooling fan problem or exhaust system leak.

■ ■ ■

Q: Recently I read a question in your column about fuel economy savings for auto start/stop technology on newer cars. My new Subaru Outback switches to a display that counts each second I am using that feature, and shows an estimated fuel savings based on the total time I have done so. Per that display, based on less than 1,000 mostly highway miles, I have saved over a gallon of fuel. With 2+ tanks of gas (which equals about 35 gallons of fuel used so far) I can say that my fuel savings are close to 3%. So, I think the feature is well worth it. In highway traffic, I disable the feature as was mentioned.

—M.B., Riverside, Illinois

A: Thanks for doing the math.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 2018 Dodge Journey. I always have condensation build up on the interior face of the lens of my headlamps. The driver's side has more. I owned a 2012 Journey and never had this issue. Can you help with preventing this problem?

—C.J., Channahon, Illinois

A: This is a common problem. Although there are numerous suggestions for drying out the headlight assembly, none seem to last very long. Replacing the assemblies is the ultimate solution. It is an expensive job. The entire front bumper cover and grille must come off to access the assemblies. Add the cost of replacement parts and you may have to take out a second mortgage.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 2010 Audi A6 Quattro 3.0T. It has 75,000 miles. Audi does not have a fluid change interval for differentials, transaxle, transmission or coolant. Since my car has low miles and may be on the road for several more years, should these fluids be changed?

—R.M., Richmond, Vermont

A: Nope.

■ ■ ■

Q: I own a 2017 Ford F-150 with about 34,000 miles on it. When I was at the dealer for service, they recommended that they flush the transmission fluid at a cost of $318. I declined this. The manual is confusing with respect to this service. Of all the cars that I have owned with automatic transmissions, I have never had a problem with one.

—J.L., Allentown, Pennsylvania

A: Don't temp fate. At such low mileage, I wouldn't even consider changing the ATF.

■ ■ ■

Q: I seem to remember you've said cars typically consume one quart of oil for every 1,000 miles of driving. I've had the same Toyota Sienna minivan for 17 years and never put a drop of oil in it. I occasionally check the level and it's always OK. My mechanic never says anything about low oil when he does the oil changes every 3,000-4,000 miles. Am I confused about what I've read in your column in the past?

A: You aren't confused. Maybe a might forgetful. I didn't say that engines typically consume a quart of oil. I have said that the automakers claim that as much as a one quart in 1,000 miles is acceptable. Owners should check their oil regularly to be sure they aren't heavy users.

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER
Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Weber's work has appeared in professional trade magazines and various consumer publications including Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

Life & Style

The 'Barbie' bonanza continues at the box office

AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Ryan Gosling, left, and Margot Robbie in a scene from "Barbie."

NEW YORK (AP)—A week later, the "Barbenheimer" boom has not abated.

Seven days after Greta Gerwig's "Barbie" and Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer" conspired to set box office records, the two films held unusually strongly in theaters. "Barbie" took in a massive $93 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. "Oppenheimer" stayed in second with a robust $46.2 million. Sales for the two movies dipped 43% and 44%, respectably — well shy of the usual week-two drops.

"Barbenheimer" has proven to be not a one-weekend phenomenon but an ongoing box-office bonanza. The two movies combined have already surpassed $1 billion in worldwide ticket sales. Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore, call it "a touchstone moment for movies, moviegoers and movie theaters."

"Having two movies from rival studios linked in this way and both boosting each other's fortunes — both box-office wise and it terms of their profile — I don't know if there's a comp for this in the annals of box-office history," said Dergarabedian. "There's really no comparison for this."

Following its year-best $162 million opening, the pink-infused pop sensation of "Barbie" saw remarkably sustained business through the week and into the weekend. The film outpaced Nolan's "The Dark Knight" to have the best first 11 days in theaters of any Warner Bros. release ever.

"Barbie" has rapidly accumulated $351.4 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, a rate that will soon make it the biggest box-office hit of the summer. Every day it's played, "Barbie" has made at least $20 million.

And the "Barbie" effect isn't just in North America. The film made $122.2 million internationally over the weekend. Its global tally has reached $775 million. It's the kind of business that astounds even veteran studio executives.

"That's a crazy number," said Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. "There's just a built-in audience that wants to be part of the zeitgeist of the moment. Wherever you go, people are wearing pink. Pink is taking over the world."

Amid the frenzy, "Barbie" is already attracting a lot of repeat moviegoers. Goldstein estimates that 12% of sales are people going back with friends or family to see it again.

For a movie industry that has been trying to regain its pre-pandemic footing — and that now finds itself largely shuttered due to actors and screenwriters strikes — the sensations of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" have showed what's possible when everything lines up just right.

"Post-pandemic, there's no ceiling and there's no floor," Goldstein said. "The movies that miss really miss big time, and the movies that work really work big time."

Universal Pictures' "Oppenheimer," meanwhile, is performing more like a superhero movie than a three-hour film about scientists talking.

Nolan's drama starring Cillian Murphy as atomic bomb physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer has accrued $174.1 million domestically thus far. With an additional $72.4 million in international cinemas, "Oppenheimer" has already surpassed $400 million globally.

Showings in IMAX have typically been sold out. "Oppenheimer" has made $80 million worldwide on IMAX. The large-format exhibitor said Sunday that it will extend the film's run through Aug. 13.

- "Barbie," $93 million.
- "Opppenheimer," $46.2 million.
- "Haunted Mansion," $24.2 million.
- "Sound of Freedom," $12.4 million.
- "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One," $10.7 million.
- "Talk to Me," $10 million.
- "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," $4 million.
- "Elemental," $3.4 million.
- "Insidious: The Red Door," $3.2 million.
- "Rocky Aur Rani Ki Prem Kahani," $1.6 million.

Trump's defamation lawsuit vs CNN over 'the Big Lie' dismissed

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit Donald Trump filed against CNN in which the former U.S. president claimed that references in news articles or by the network's hosts to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election as "the Big Lie" were tantamount to comparing him to Adolf Hitler.

Trump had been seeking punitive damages of $475 million in the federal lawsuit filed last October in South Florida, claiming the references hurt his reputation and political career. Trump is a candidate for the 2024 GOP presidential nomination in what is his third run for the presidency as a major-party candidate.

U.S. District Judge Raag Singhal, who was appointed by Trump, said Friday in his ruling that the former president's defamation claims failed because the references were opinions and not factual statements. Moreover, it was a stretch to believe that, in viewers' minds, that phrase would connect Trump's efforts challenging the 2020 election results to Nazi propaganda or Hitler's genocidal and authoritarian regime, the judge said.

"CNN's use of the phrase 'the Big Lie' in connection with Trump's election challenges does not give rise to a plausible inference that Trump advocates the persecution and genocide of Jews or any other group of people," the judge wrote in his decision.

Email messages seeking comment were sent to Trump's attorneys in South Florida and Washington. CNN declined to comment on Sunday. ***(AP)***

Friendships that took a hit during covid need rekindling

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman in my late 40s, and since coming out of the isolation of the pandemic (the lockdown was strict where we live), I've had a hard time rekindling the friendships I valued before—with my two best girlfriends, in particular. We used to have the type of relationship in which we were very open. We told each other everything and had a lot of fun.

The last two years were really hard on me. I faced a series of serious health issues, as did my youngest kid, who almost died and had to be hospitalized in another city because the care centers here were overcrowded. A few months later, my older child had a mental health crisis that we now spend a lot of time working through.

Those challenges completely changed the way our house runs. They dominate my day-to-day life. The thing is, talking about all that feels too heavy. I don't want to be the friend who always brings down the room. On the other hand, when my friends find out everything that has been going on that I didn't tell them about, they're going to be angry that I've been hiding things from them, and it's going to damage our friendship.

I don't have the capacity to take on managing anyone else's feelings, while at the same time I wish I had more people to go out and have fun with. How can I be a good friend without sharing all the challenges?

NOT SHARING IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT SHARING: Now that the lockdowns are over and, for most people, life is returning to near-normal, get together face-to-face for a truth session with those friends. Tell them as much as you think they need to know, and enjoy them as often as you can. If they can't lighten your load, widen your circle to include some women who can.

Do not feel you must manage their feelings or disclose all of your son's emotional difficulties. Make sure to devote some time listening to the challenges THEY may have faced over the last couple of years. True friends try to make the people they care about feel better, not worse.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I live with a man who sits around the house all day. If I'm outside doing yardwork, he'll sit on the porch and watch without offering to help. He's retired and doesn't work. He's 59 and does nothing but sit up all night and sleep half the day. Any comments?

DOES IT ALL IN KENTUCKY

DEAR DOES IT ALL: Have you asked the man who is living with you for help? (I notice you did NOT refer to him as your husband.) If you have and he refused, my comment is that your porch-sitter appears to be lazy and unmotivated. He may feel that because he's no longer in the workforce, he doesn't have to do anything else until the good lord claims him, which may be sooner than he thinks if he doesn't get up and do some exercise.

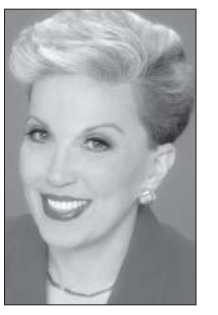
In dealing with someone like him, try coming up with a way to motivate him, hire someone to help with the yardwork or trade him in for a younger, more energetic model. (I'm only half-joking about that last option.)

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

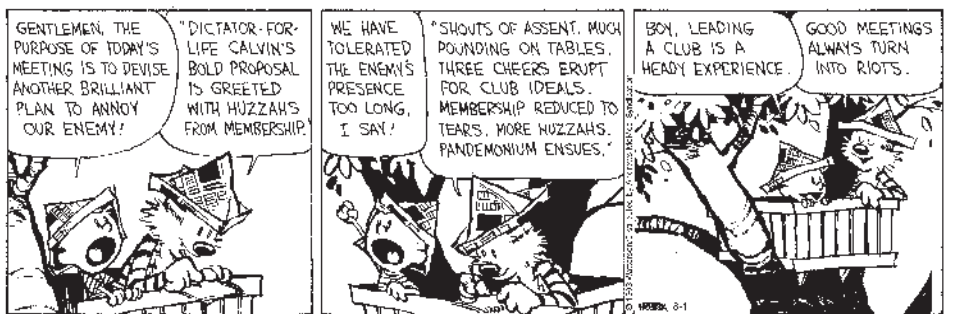


Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

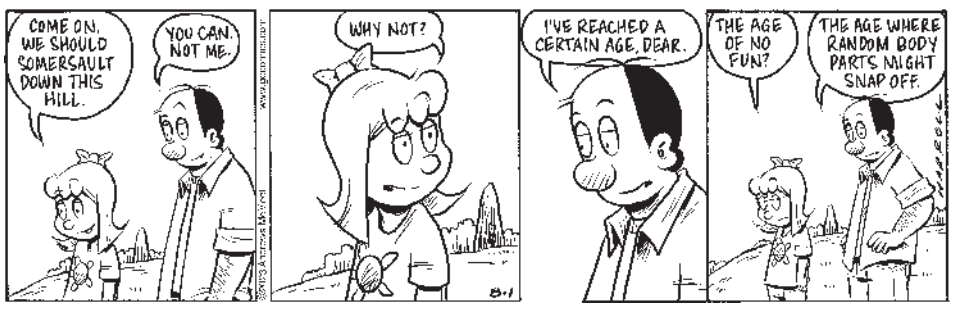

GENTLEMEN, THE PURPOSE OF TODAY'S MEETING IS TO DEVISE ANOTHER BRILLIANT PLAN TO ANNOY OUR ENEMY!
"DICTATOR-FOR-LIFE CALVIN'S BOLD PROPOSAL IS GREETED WITH HUZZAHS FROM MEMBERSHIP."
WE HAVE TOLERATED THE ENEMY'S PRESENCE TOO LONG, I SAY!
"SHOUTS OF ASSENT. MUCH POUNDING ON TABLES. THREE CHEERS ERUPT FOR CLUB IDEALS. MEMBERSHIP REDUCED TO TEARS. MORE HUZZAHS. PANDEMONIUM ENSUES."
BOY, LEADING A CLUB IS A HEADY EXPERIENCE.
GOOD MEETINGS ALWAYS TURN INTO RIOTS.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

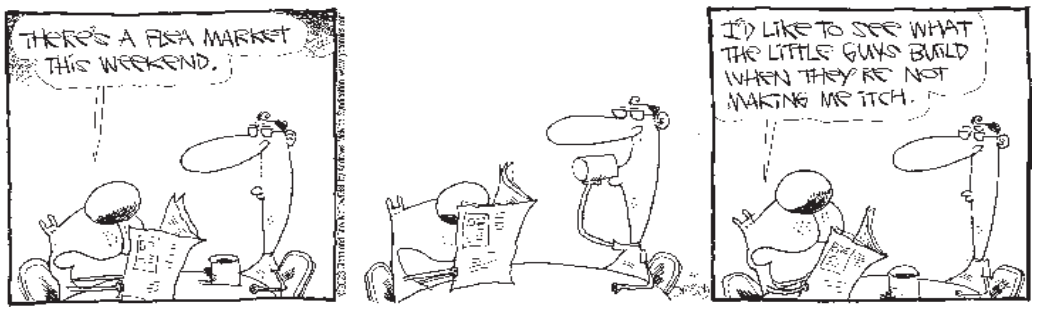
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


COME ON. WE SHOULD SOMERSAULT DOWN THIS HILL.
YOU CAN. NOT ME.
WHY NOT?
I'VE REACHED A CERTAIN AGE, DEAR.
THE AGE OF NO FUN?
THE AGE WHERE RANDOM BODY PARTS MIGHT SNAP OFF.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Not so hot?
5 Inventor's monogram
8 Dalai —
12 To boot
13 Drench
14 Victor's cry
15 Active person
17 — the Impaler
18 Napkin's perch
19 Green prefix
20 Piquant
21 Country music's Greenwood
22 Energy
23 Lukewarm
26 Meeting log
30 Tel —
31 Sheepish remark
32 Poet Teasdale
33 Indy vehicle
35 Staffers
36 Branch
37 300, to Cato
38 "Greetings!"
41 Cacophony
42 Nevertheless, briefly
45 Pequod captain
46 Online customer care option
48 Humdinger
49 Numerical prefix
50 Nevada city
51 Waxcoated cheese
52 Solidify
53 Oxen's burden

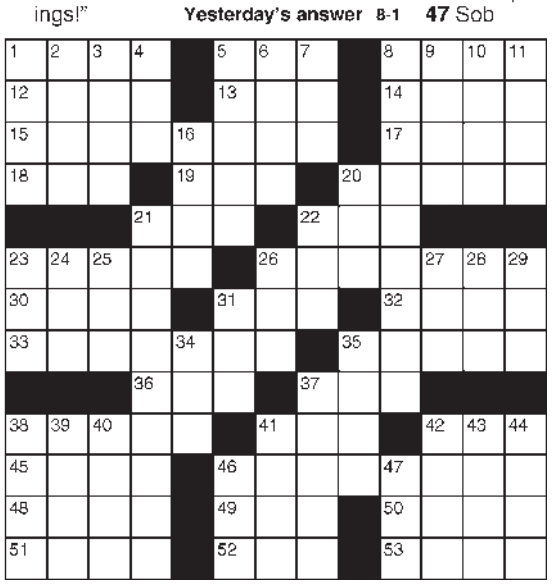
DOWN

1 Humpty's perch
2 Others (Lat.)
3 Invitation notation
4 Curly's bro
5 Once and again
6 Prefix with dynamic
7 Paris summer
8 Entertainment at a wedding
9 Hole punchers
10 Castle defense
11 Tennis star Murray
16 Garden intruder
20 California wine, for short
21 Band's concert recording
22 By means of
23 Sailor
24 Longoria of TV
25 Photo, for short
26 Damage
27 Wee bit
28 Before
29 Airline to Sweden
31 "Kapow!"
34 —-Magnon
35 Dreaded breakout
37 Mannerly
38 Robust
39 Barak of Israel
40 Chorus syllables
41 Eat in style
42 One of TV's Huxtables
43 Handful of hair
44 Oklahoma tribe
46 Schlep
47 Sob

Solution time: 22 mins.

Y	U	P	■	■	E	M	S	■	S	O	W	N
A	S	I	S	■	R	I	P	■	U	R	D	U
R	S	T	U	■	A	F	R	■	M	O	S	T
D	R	A	M	S	■	F	I	R	M	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	A	C	■	C	O	E	T	H	E
W	H	E	E	D	L	E	■	C	R	O	A	K
I	C	E	R	A	■	C	L	K	■	B	R	I	C
O	A	I	I	S	■	M	I	R	H	O	R	S
A	T	F	O	U	T	■	R	T	F	■	■	■
■	■	■	U	B	F	R	■	S	F	G	U	F
J	A	W	S	■	N	E	T	■	Z	I	T	I
A	L	O	E	■	O	B	I	■	E	G	A	N
B	A	N	S	■	R	A	N	■	■	S	H	E

Yesterday's answer 8-1



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Madison Bumgarner, 34; Jason Momoa, 44; Tempestt Bledsoe, 50; Adam Duritz, 59.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, be observant and look for the best way forward this year. Don't count on others or take risks with your money, health or emotional well-being. Set the standard instead of letting someone else dictate your next move. Choose partners and friends based on compatibility and equality to avoid situations that weigh you down. Handle legal, financial and medical matters with care. Your numbers are 9, 14, 24, 26, 31, 37, 48.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Focus on your objective and keep your emotions under control. Refuse to let what others decide to do confuse you. Stick to your plan, take care of your responsibilities, and use your imagination and passionate attitude to knock whatever you do out of the ballpark. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't second-guess yourself. Stop worrying about what others do; make a point of following through with your plans. Use your experience, knowledge and energy to help change situations slowing you down. Discipline and hard work will propagate unexpected opportunities. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Turn your ideas into something tangible. Don't rely on or trust others to address your concerns adequately. Keep an open mind, and don't allow someone's negativity to stop you from reaching for the stars. Don't let anger set in when action is required. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Learn from past mistakes, and forge into the future with optimism and faith in your ability to get things done to your specifications. A change will turn out better than anticipated if you are hands-on and oversee every detail yourself. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Express yourself, and do what's necessary to resolve unfinished business. To ensure everything is up to code, monitor investments and shared expenses. A partnership is only as good as the people involved. Do whatever it takes to get in sync with anyone with whom you share your money, space or time. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take the helm and make things happen. Call on experts to fill in any missing pieces you cannot do yourself, and run a tight ship that will help you gain respect and the chance to expand your interests and gain momentum. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Relying on others will cost you. Do what you can, even if it means spending more time or diminishing your plans. A reunion or event will give you access to someone of value. Use your charm to extract information that can help you excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Emotional situations will escalate if you are too vocal. Don't share your feelings prematurely. Find out where others stand and process the consequences of your actions before you act. Choose your words wisely and counter negativity with opportunity. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* What you do will outweigh what you say. Don't battle over something irrelevant. You cannot change or waste your time trying to convince others to see things your way. Put your best foot forward, do your own thing and don't look back. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You are positioned better than you think. Take the necessary precautions, but move forward full force to get results leading to bigger and better opportunities. Emotional spending will be your downfall. You can't buy love or happiness. Explore possibilities. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight, be observant and tame your emotions when dealing with associates. How you present your intentions to others will determine who helps. A force play will not work, but offering incentives will be a game changer. A change of heart is apparent. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Preparation will make a difference. Lay out a foolproof plan, and the offers that surface will change how you move forward. Consider partnering with someone well-connected, but be sure to first establish who is responsible for what. Get what you want in writing. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, flexible and methodical. You are generous and underrated.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				5	6	2		
			9	4				
	2	1		8	3	5		4
					7		5	6
2	8	6		9			4	
			6		4			2
	1		4		8			5
7	4			1	9		3	
8	6	9		7	5	4		

Difficulty: ★★ 8/1

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	6	8	2	9	1	3	4	5
9	3	1	6	5	4	2	8	7
2	5	4	8	7	3	6	1	9
6	2	5	7	4	9	8	3	1
8	9	7	3	1	2	4	5	6
4	1	3	5	6	8	7	9	2
1	8	2	9	3	7	5	6	4
3	4	6	1	2	5	9	7	8
5	7	9	4	8	6	1	2	3

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Difficulty: ★ 7/31

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

BUILDING A WOODEN SHED **Solution: 7 letters**

T	R	I	M	G	R	A	V	E	L	I	C	N	E	P
N	A	N	G	L	E	P	R	O	O	L	F	N	D	E
E	S	P	D	U	T	S	O	P	L	O	S	O	I	R
M	P	L	E	E	D	O	O	W	U	R	S	I	K	I
P	H	A	M	M	E	R	F	N	E	A	H	S	S	M
I	A	N	E	Y	E	W	D	T	W	C	A	N	C	E
U	L	K	T	O	A	A	N	E	R	K	P	E	R	T
Q	T	C	A	L	T	E	S	A	S	O	E	M	E	E
E	R	E	L	I	P	T	O	U	D	I	O	I	W	R
G	E	D	O	R	R	U	L	E	R	T	G	D	D	E
A	N	N	A	O	U	T	S	I	D	E	N	N	R	H
R	C	C	P	L	A	T	F	O	R	M	D	E	I	T
O	H	P	A	I	N	T	I	M	B	E	R	G	V	A
T	U	P	A	L	L	E	T	S	T	A	B	L	E	E
S	H	I	N	G	L	E	S	K	C	O	L	B	R	W

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Angle, Arch, Asphalt, Blocks, Carpenters, Deck, Design, Dimension, Door, Edge, Equipment, Floor, Foundation, Glue, Gravel, Hammer, Metal, Outside, Paint, Pallets, Pencil, Perimeter, Plank, Platform, Post, Rack, Roof, Ruler, Screwdriver, Shape, Shingles, Skid, Stable, Storage, Stud, Support, Tape Measure, Timber, Trench, Trim, Vent, Wall, Weather, Wood

Yesterday's Answer: Badge

To purchase **THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 56 through 73,** order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2387)

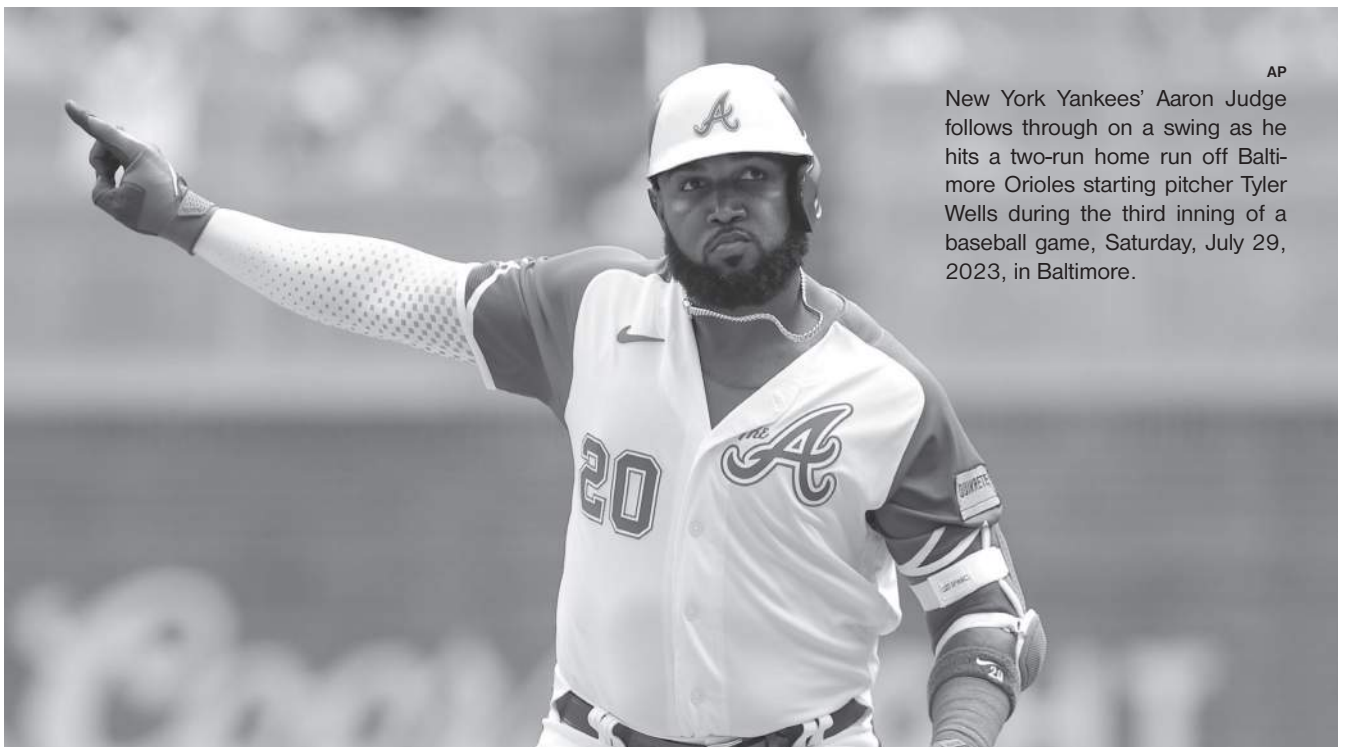
Olson drives in 5 runs as Braves sweep Brewers, 8-6

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Olson drove in five runs with two homers, including a go-ahead, two-run blast in the eighth, and the Atlanta Braves beat the Milwaukee Brewers 8-6 on Sunday to cap their sweep of the high-scoring series.

Orlando Arcia led off the eighth with a double to left field off Joel Payamps (4-2). With one out, Olson's 35th homer landed in the Atlanta bullpen in right-center, giving the Braves the lead. It was the first earned runs allowed by Payamps, who took a 1.68 ERA into the game, since June 8.

Kirby Yates (5-0) pitched a scoreless eighth. Raisel Iglesias earned his 20th save by striking out the side in the ninth.

Atlanta rookie AJ Smith-Shawver, recalled from Triple-A Gwinnett before the game, allowed three runs on four hits and four walks in five innings. Collin McHugh blew the 5-3 lead by giving up three runs in the sixth.



AP

New York Yankees' Aaron Judge follows through on a swing as he hits a two-run home run off Baltimore Orioles starting pitcher Tyler Wells during the third inning of a baseball game, Saturday, July 29, 2023, in Baltimore.

ORIOLES 9, YANKEES 3

BALTIMORE (AP)—Adam Frazier hit a three-run homer as part of a seven-run first inning for Baltimore, and the Orioles took two of three in the weekend series.

The Orioles led 6-0 before they even made an out against Luis Severino (2-5). The win kept Baltimore 1 1/2 games ahead of Tampa Bay atop the AL East. The Yankees are 3 1/2 behind the last playoff spots in the American League after missing a chance to gain on Houston and Toronto.

Severino allowed nine runs and 10 hits in 3 1/3 innings as his ERA rose to 7.49.

Orioles starter Dean Kremer couldn't make it through five innings, so Mike Baumann (8-0) was credited with the win. After Baltimore's big first inning, Kremer retired Kyle Higashioka on a bases-loaded grounder for the third out of the second.

RAYS 8, ASTROS 2

HOUSTON (AP)—Brandon Lowe hit a two-run homer and drove in three, Josh Lowe capped a four-run first with a three-run double and Tampa Bay beat Houston.

The Rays got to Houston starter Brandon Bielak (5-6) for four runs in the first, with Yandy Díaz scoring on a fielding error by José Abreu before Josh Lowe hit his three-run double. Bielak allowed six runs — three earned — on eight hits with four strikeouts in five innings.

REDS 9, DODGERS 0

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elly De La Cruz, Joey Votto and Matt McLain homered, and Cincinnati took over sole possession of first place in the NL Central.

De La Cruz went 4 for 5 and scored twice as the Reds rapped out 14 hits in taking two of three from the NL West-leading Dodgers. It was LA's worst loss since a 15-0 defeat to San Francisco on June 17.

Graham Ashcraft (6-7) scattered five hits over six innings and struck out two.

Dodgers shortstop Miguel Rojas made his first career pitching appearance in the ninth. He nearly hit Votto before the designated hitter answered with an RBI double that made it 9-0. Rojas then hit Christian Encarnacion-Strand.

PADRES 5, RANGERS 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Gary Sanchez homered twice, Juan Soto doubled in Fernando Tatis Jr. from first base and left-hander Blake Snell had another strong start for San Diego, who beat Texas for a three-game sweep.

Josh Hader retired Josh Jung with the bases loaded in the ninth inning for his 25th save in 29 chances.

Snell (8-8), who has been mentioned as a trade possibility, along with Hader, lowered his big league-leading ERA to 2.50 by holding the Rangers to an unearned run and four hits in five innings. He struck out nine and walked four. The only run he allowed came on his throwing error in the fourth.

ANGELS 3, BLUE JAYS 2, 10 INNINGS

TORONTO (AP)—Hunter Renfroe hit a two-run home run in the 10th inning and Los Angeles beat Toronto to avoid a three-game sweep.

Renfroe's 17th home run of the season came off Blue Jays right-hander Yimi García (3-4). It was the Angels' first hit with a runner in scoring position in the series. Renfroe went 3 for 4 and drove in all three runs.

Carlos Estévez (5-1) pitched the final two innings for the win. Vladimir Guerrero Jr. drove in automatic runner Bo Bichette with a leadoff single in the 10th, but the Blue Jays couldn't tie it.

GIANTS 4, RED SOX 3, 11 INNINGS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Joc Pederson singled in Patrick Bailey in the 11th inning, and San Francisco earned its first home series win against Boston since 2004.

Bailey began the inning at second base. After Casey Schmitt was hit by a pitch from Mauricio Llovera (1-1), Brandon Crawford attempted to sacrifice the runners over. But Boston catcher Connor Wong was unable to field the ball and Crawford reached on an infield single. Pederson then lined a 1-2 sinker from Llovera into right field.

Boston missed a chance to take the lead in the top of the 10th when Tristan Beck (2-0) got Yu Chang to strike out swinging with two runners on.

One of San Francisco's top offseason acquisitions, Ross Stripling pitched 4 1/3 innings of one-run ball in relief of opener Scott Alexander. Stripling retired 13 of his 17 batters. He allowed four hits, struck out three and walked none.

PIRATES 6, PHILLIES 4, 10 INNINGS

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Josh Palacios hit a two-run home run in the 10th inning, and Pittsburgh rallied twice from two runs down to clinch the three-game series.

With Jared Triolo on as the automatic runner, Palacios led off the 10th by driving a slider from Andrew Vasquez (2-1) 367 feet to right. He celebrated his 28th birthday with his second homer of the season as the Pirates took two of three from the Phillies.

Alec Bohm singled to start the 10th for Philadelphia and went to second on a throwing error by Triolo, putting automatic runner Bryce Harper on third. Harper hesitated to run when Trea Turner flew out to right, ultimately charging home when catcher Endy Rodriguez threw to second with Bohm scrambling back to the base. Nick Gonzales' throw back to Rodriguez beat Harper for the second out. Angel Perdomo (2-1) struck out Edmundo Sosa to end the threat.

MARLINS 8, TIGERS 6

MIAMI (AP)—Garrett Cooper and Jean Segura homered, newly acquired relievers Jorge López and David Robertson played key roles and Miami beat Detroit.

López (5-2) got the last two outs in the seventh and Robertson closed with a perfect ninth in his Marlins debut for his 16th save.

Tigers star slugger Miguel Cabrera doubled and walked in his last appearance in Miami. The 40-year-old Cabrera, who will retire at the end of the season, played his first five seasons with the Marlins. He was replaced for a pinch-runner after reaching on a walk in the seventh and received one final round of cheers.

Cooper's two-run shot in the seventh put the Marlins ahead 7-6. He drove a 1-2 pitch from Tigers' reliever Tyler Holton (0-2) over the wall in left-center for his 13th homer.

MARINERS 4, DIAMONDBACKS 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Luis Castillo threw six sharp innings, J.P. Crawford connected for a solo homer and Seattle took two of three games in the weekend series.

Castillo (7-7) gave up just two hits, striking out seven and walking one while throwing 102 pitches. The right-hander has a 2.88 ERA this season.

Crawford homered in the second — his ninth long ball of the season — to make it 3-0. The shortstop added a double in the ninth and scored for the third time on Eugenio Suárez's single.

Kelly (9-5) managed to shake off his 41-pitch first inning to deliver a decent outing. The right-hander gave up three runs and seven hits over five innings, striking out six while walking two.

ROYALS 2, TWINS 1

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Freddy Fermin hit a homer, Maikel Garcia had an RBI double, Ryan Yarbrough gave up one run over seven innings and Kansas City completed a sweep of Minnesota.

Yarbrough (4-5) had his best start of the season going seven innings, allowing one earned run and giving up seven hits while fanning five.

Kenta Maeda (2-6) went five innings and gave up two earned runs on four hits and struck out seven. It's the first time in over a month that the Twins lost a game he started.

Carlos Hernandez shut down the Twins in the ninth for the first save of his career.

CARDINALS 3, CUBS 0

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Steven Matz and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, and St. Louis snapped Chicago's eight-game winning streak.

Tyler O'Neill, Andrew Knizner and Paul Goldschmidt drove in runs in the first two innings for the Cardinals before the pitchers took it from there.

Matz (2-7) allowed four hits in six innings with two strikeouts and no walks. He has not allowed an earned run over his last two starts, covering 12 innings. Giovanny Gallegos tossed two hitless innings. JoJo Romero threw a scoreless ninth to pick up his first save.

St. Louis salvaged the final game of the four-game set and had lost its previous six home games to the Cubs.

Chicago starter Kyle Hendricks (4-5) allowed three runs on eight hits over seven innings. He entered the contest with a 13-3 career mark against St. Louis.

GUARDIANS 5, WHITE SOX 0

CHICAGO (AP)—José Ramírez homered twice and drove in three runs, helping Aaron Civale and Cleveland earned a split of the four-game series.

Steven Kwan also homered in manager Terry Francona's 1,927th win, breaking a tie with Casey Stengel for 13th on the career list.

Civale (5-2), a potential trade target ahead of Tuesday's deadline, pitched six innings in his second straight win. He allowed three hits, struck out four and walked two. Enyel De Los Santos, Trevor Stephan and Emmanuel Clase each pitched an inning after Civale departed, completing a four-hitter.

White Sox right-hander Michael Kopech (4-10) allowed three runs and four hits in five innings. He struck out two and walked five.

METS 5, NATIONALS 2

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Verlander earned his 250th career victory in what could be his final start for New York.

Francisco Lindor homered and had three hits for the fourth-place Mets, who took three of four from last-place Washington. Pete Alonso drove in two runs.

Verlander (6-5) allowed one run in 5 1/3 innings to become the 49th major league pitcher to reach 250 wins.

Alonso had an RBI single and lifted one of New York's two sacrifice flies in a three-run third against former teammate Trevor Williams (5-6).

Lindor homered in consecutive games for the fourth time this year. He reached base four times. Jeff McNeil hit a go-ahead triple and Omar Narváez also had a sacrifice fly in the third.

ROCKIES 2, ATHLETICS 0

DENVER (AP)—Ty Blach tossed five strong innings, Ryan McMahon had two hits and drove in both runs, and Colorado salvaged the final game of the three-game series.

Matt Koch, Brent Suter and Daniel Bard each pitched an inning before Justin Lawrence capped the shutout with a clean ninth to earn his eighth save.

Ramón Laureano had two hits and Luis Medina (3-8) allowed two runs in 5 1/3 innings for the Athletics.

Blach (1-0), making his second straight start, went a season-high five innings and threw just 11 balls in his 52 pitches. He allowed three hits and only one runner past first base.

2-time champion Germany in unfamiliar territory after loss to Colombia

SYDNEY (AP)—Germany's players expected they would have qualified for the knockout round by now at the Women's World Cup because, well, they usually do.

Only once before has two-time World Cup champion Germany needed to win its last group game to advance. The No. 2-ranked Germans play winless South Korea, ranked 17th, on Thursday in Brisbane, Australia.

"It's added pressure," head coach Martina Voss-Tecklenburg said after Germany's shocking 2-1 loss to Colombia on Sunday.

Germany hadn't lost a group-stage match at the Women's World Cup in 28 years.

In 1995, Germany lost its second group-stage game 3-2 to host Sweden. Germany went on to the Women's World Cup final that year, losing to Norway.

AP

Germany's Alexandra Popp, on the ground, looks for a penalty call, between Colombia's Carolina Arias, left, and Jorelyn Carabali during the Women's World Cup Group H soccer match between Germany and Colombia at Sydney Football Stadium in Sydney, Australia, Friday, July 28, 2023.

Until encountering Colombia at the Sydney Football Stadium, Germany hadn't lost in 20 group-stage matches since.

And now, the stoppage-time header by Colombia's Manuela Vanegas has the Germans facing the possibility of not qualifying out of the group for the first time ever.

"The fact is we have to win the last game. This is all that counts for me right now," midfielder Lena Oberdorf said.

Oberdorf, who played in Germany's run to the final at the 2022 Euros, understands the pressure of big-time games and recognizes that this is not the position the team envisaged coming into the tournament in Australia and New Zealand.

"We have become so strong as a team, we just calm down, focus on the last game and then do a task," Oberdorf said.

By conceding two goals to Colombia, the Germans allowed more goals in one match than they had in the last two Women's World Cup group stages combined. Germany allowed no goals in group-stage matches in 2019 and just one in 2015.

For a group of players not used to losing in this early part of the tournament, it's even more important for Voss-Tecklenburg to handle emotions and make sure the team is in the right mindset moving forward.

"Well, my job is to be a role model for everybody and say 'It's up to us,'" Voss-Tecklenburg said. "To encourage my players, to stay with them, and to support them, to say 'We're not going to be divided, and we win together, we lose together, and that's what we'll continue to do.'"

After losing to Sweden in the group stage in 1995, Germany went out and won 6-1 against Brazil.

Even with a win against South Korea, Germany is likely to finish second in Group H. Germany has only finished second in its group at the Women's World Cup once before, in 1999, when it had a win and two draws in the group.

Germany also could be knocked out of the Women's World Cup after group play for the first time ever. If South Korea pulls off a shocking upset, and Morocco wins or draws against Colombia, then Germany would finish third in the group, with Colombia and Morocco advancing.

Germany opened the tournament with a 6-0 win over a Moroccan team making its debut in the tournament. An 89th-minute equalizer on Sunday night had many people thinking Germany had escaped with a draw against Colombia. That result gave even South Korea the slightest of chances of advancing despite losses to Colombia and Morocco, adding more pressure on the German team.

"We have to go all in," midfielder Lina Magull said. "We have to win this game, and I think still now I am (feeling) very positive to win this game."

For remote, laid back Dunedin, a warm welcome to Women's World Cup

DUNEDIN, New Zealand (AP)—Hanging on the edge of the stunning South Island, in one of the world's more remote countries, sat a scenic, minor-league sized city founded by Scottish immigrants.

Then, a few weeks ago, one of the world's biggest sporting events came to town, bringing in thousands of visitors.

Reporter, in a cab: "So, is Dunedin excited for the Women's World Cup?"

Cab driver: "Yes – and no."

Welcome to Dunedin, which at a latitude of 45.88 degrees South is the southernmost city to ever host a match in a soccer World Cup, men's or women's.

It may also be among the quirkiest spots, a place of contradictions. Locals have been excited to host the Women's World Cup, but not necessarily to go see a game.

With the city about to host its last game of the Women's World Cup on Tuesday — Netherlands vs. Vietnam with first place in Group E on the line for the Dutch — it's time for a little tour of what soccer at the bottom of the world has looked like.

QUIET FANDOM

During Dunedin's time in the soccer spotlight, there's been the usual hum of life here: People returning home from work and University of Otago students enjoying beers in the octagonal heart of downtown, fittingly named the Octagon.

"New Zealanders have their own way of showing interest or passion," said 78-year-old Ron Palenski, historian and a renowned New Zealand sports writer. "Their support is more low-key."

People here don't need to deck themselves out in team apparel to be considered fans, it's all about what's in the heart.

"When it's a New Zealand team, I am just a devoted fan," Dunedin resident and retired neuroscience professor Ruth Napper said. "It doesn't matter what it is. I think it's about being a small country at the bottom of the world that, you know, we've got to stand up and be noticed. And I think on a sports field, we punch above our weight."

Dunedin's six matches have all taken place in the covered Forsyth Barr Stadium, nicknamed the Glasshouse, and also known as Dunedin Stadium. Not unlike the cab driver's "yes and no" answer, while it provides shelter from rain and wind, the stadium has open sides and provides little insulation from the cold.

And while tickets for New Zealand's match against Switzerland sold out to fill the stadium's 25,947 seats, attendance at the other matches has ranged from just under 7,000 to about 13,700.

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Southern hospitality isn't just in the United States. Dunedin is known for its welcoming vibe. People are approachable here, the style is casual and many stay because they love it.

"I came down here on a trip and basically never left," said Dan Hendra, Dunedin City Council's events team leader, who arrived 20 years ago and is originally from Auckland, on New Zealand's North Island. "I fell in love with the place and how friendly everyone was. The hospitality and friendliness and welcoming of the locals is awesome. That's why I live here."

Certainly, it's a place to get away from it all.

The city of about 130,000 residents is roughly 2,650 miles (4,265 kilometers) from Antarctica, around the distance from New York City to Los Angeles. Souvenir shops sell items that read, "Dunedin: the Riviera of the Antarctic" and "Dunedin: Bottom of the World."

Founded in 1848, it's often called the Edinburgh of the South, as its name originates from "Dun Eideann," the Scots-Gaelic word for Scotland's capital city, Edinburgh. Like Scotland, there's a wildness to the area, and nature is a big draw.

On non-game days, Women's World Cup tourists have explored the Otago Peninsula's rolling green hills, grassy cliffs and deep turquoise waters, where they watched blue penguins emerge from the surf each night to nest along the beach.

Blue penguins, or kororā in the Māori language, are the world's smallest penguins, averaging about 10 to 12 inches (25-30 centimeters) tall and weighing two or three pounds (about 1 kilogram). The area also is home to seals, sea lions, albatross and other native birds.

"It's great to show off what we have down here and what we are as a city," Hendra said. "Given that we are the wildlife capital of the country, that's something that we are really proud of and love to showcase."

GAME DAY

The sports scene in Dunedin is influenced by the University of Otago, which was founded in 1869 and now boasts 21,000 students. The Glasshouse, which often hosts rugby matches and other sporting events, has a university student section known as "the Zoo," which "creates a buzzing atmosphere," according to 22-year-old Barnaby Kelly.

Mostly, what those students watch is rugby – the most popular sport in this area and New Zealand by a long way. Dunedin was a host city for the Rugby World Cup in 2011.

Nestled in a quiet upstairs space at the Dunedin Railway Station is the New Zealand Sports Hall of Fame, opened in 1990.

Prominently displayed are photos and memorabilia from revered athletes in rugby, cycling, golf, tennis and more. But soccer? There's only one display — a 6-by-3 glass case.

Even 13-year-old Izabella Christofoletti, who plays soccer for her school and a club team, and has been a ball girl for several Women's World Cup matches, can talk about how soccer lags behind rugby in interest. Soccer "is not a well-known sport amongst different areas, so it's good (the tournament) is here because it creates knowledge of it," she said.

Nonetheless, when New Zealand played its last match against Switzerland on Sunday, a painful 0-0 tie that knocked the Football Ferns out of the tournament, the fans finally turned out and made noise, stomping their feet and cheering at every chance on goal for the Ferns.

Even though the result wasn't what they wanted, New Zealand players were proud of their fans.

NZ out of Women's World Cup 2023 following 0-0 draw with Switzerland

DUNEDIN, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand outshot Switzerland and even moved goalkeeper Victoria Esson into an attack position several times, but failed to break a 0-0 tie Sunday in the Women's World Cup and became the first host nation to be eliminated in group play in tournament history.

The Football Ferns are co-hosting the World Cup with Australia, which must win Monday against Canada to avoid its own early elimination.

Switzerland advanced to the round of 16. The Swiss also played to a scoreless draw against Norway, but won the group with the draw against New Zealand, coupled with the Norwegians' simultaneous 6-0 rout of the Philippines.

New Zealand controlled the pace for long stretches of the match and had its chances to score, outshooting Switzerland 12-3. Jacqui Hand knocked a shot off the right post in the 24th minute.

All 25,947 seats at Forsyth Barr Stadiums were filled — the only one of Dunedin's six tournament matches to sell out. The raucous crowd stomped and cheered all night, to no avail.

The tournament began July 20 with New Zealand upsetting Norway 1-0, but the Ferns failed to score from the 48th minute of that match through two more games. They lost their previous match 1-0 against the Philippines.

Join the Fun in the Michelob Ultra Beer Mile

Run Saipan is inviting everyone on Saipan, the CNMI, the Marianas, Micronesia, the Pacific, the world and even visitors to our galaxy to join in the fun at the 2nd Annual Beer Mile sponsored by Michelob Ultra. Whether you want to throw your hat in the ring and join the run or just come as a spectator, it should be a great time.

International Beer Day is Aug. 4, 2023 and Run Saipan's Beer Run will take place at 5:30pm at Saipan Vegas Country Club. The beer mile is equal parts gastric challenge and athletic endeavor and everyone 21 and older is welcome to join us. Help Run Saipan in its continuing attempt to redefine carbo-loading and spectators are welcome.

Sign up before Thursday to lock in your place at a lower rate and make history in this run, quick race. https://raceroster.com/events/2023/70407/the-run-saipan-beer-mile-23

The rules are simple: Drink one beer, run 400m, drink another beer, run 400m, drink a third beer, run 400m, drink a fourth beer and then take another 400m loop to finish the course. On the fourth lap, you will be rewarded with your race swag—a custom Beer Mile 500ml glass mug that you can drain and keep.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Run Saipan's Beer Run will take place on International Beer Day on Aug. 4, 2023 starting 5:30pm at Saipan Vegas Country Club.

Marianas Pacific Distributors will be bringing prizes for the flight winners and Saipan Vegas will be awarding the fastest male and female runner with a weekend for two Friday and Saturday nights in the Saipan Vegas hotel family rooms with free unlimited golf (subject to availability) and an $25 free play voucher for the game room. As they start their fourth lap, each participant will receive a custom cut glass beer mug that they can take home and treasure forever.

Run Saipan reminds you to drink responsibly and not operate a motor vehicle when under the influence.

Last year, Leith Poole and Tammy Ackerman topped the inaugural Michelob Ultra Beer Mile after chugging four brewskis and running four 400m increments in times of 8:03 and 9:01, respectively.

Run Saipan reminds you to drink responsibly and not operate a motor vehicle when under the influence.

A beer mile is a 1-mile race invented by Canadian runners in 1989. It combines the physical challenge of interval training with the skill of speed drinking. The beer mile required runners to consume a 12-oz. beer before each quarter mile lap, i.e. four beers and four laps. ***(PR)***

RUNNERS

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will attract international runners to boost industry in the CNMI and enhance competition."

Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Manny Sitchon also welcomed the news, saying "Saipan runners have been waiting for this race for so long."

Matthew Furan also thanked MVA for giving avid runners like him a heads-up months before they will host the Saipan Marathon.

"I think it's great and I am thankful for the vision cast for the future! Giving a notice this far in advance will allow us to properly prepare. When you aim at nothing, you hit nothing every time. When preparation and opportunity meet you will have success. Looking forward to the challenge and preparation. This is a great step in getting back to where we all need to be."

Chad Tafflinger, another champion runner, said he's also looking forward to the 42-kilometer race.

"I think it would be awesome! Always love that race and the hard work that goes into getting ready for it! Such a great test of perseverance."

Run Saipan mainstay Ann Bang, who recently completed her first marathon in Korea, said the return of the Saipan Marathon is a fulfillment of a long prayed for wish.

"As a runner, I hope that the Saipan Marathon will be held again next year! This year, many runners were disappointed it was canceled. During my summer vacation in Korea, I kept introducing the Saipan Marathon to my friends and they wanted to visit Saipan next year to join this event. Please, give my friends a chance to enjoy the Saipan Marathon!"

CNMI national track and field member Sildrey Veloria said hopefully the budget will be enough for next year's Saipan Marathon, "because we only get two chances to do the marathon distance on island every year."

Run Saipan member Simon Necesito, for his part, said he's happy that 2024 will be the year the Saipan Marathon makes its long-awaited return.

"It was unfortunate that it didn't pull through last year. From what I used to see in the Visitor's Channel it was a huge event. Not to mention, you have people from different parts of the world coming to compete. I am looking forward to this."

Rosemarie Chisato, another veteran runner, said she's so looking forward to running her first marathon and in fact have been training for it the past several years.

The last two weeks alone, she and her running buddies have ran a 30K from Hyatt Regency Saipan to Pacific Islands Club Saipan and back as well as uphill climbs to Mount Tapochao and Suicide Cliff.

Philip Santos, who is currently two months into his run streak, said the announcement has really piqued his interest.

"I'm definitely looking forward to the Saipan Marathon. I'm currently training my way to running a half marathon, so I'm happy that it's still next year because it means I have more time to train and prepare. I'm just hoping all the road construction will be done by then."

Raymund Tolentino, who just completed a duathlon while vacationing in the Philippines, said he's happy that boatloads of runners from around the region will again return to Saipan for the marathon.

Last but certainly not the least, motocross-rider-turned-runner Stephen Dame said the return of the Saipan Marathon only means he needs to double his efforts getting back to running mode again.

"I guess I'll try and train for it. Gonna have a lot of work to do."

The MVA said registration and other details of the 2024 Saipan Marathon will be announced once finalized. For more information, contact the tourism body at communityprojects@mymarianas.com, 1.670.664.3200/1, or www.mymarianas.com.

SBL

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ond and third base from All Stars catcher's passed balls, then scored on a single by O'Neil Yobech.

The All Stars were then subsequently shut down by Flores II as they went seven scoreless innings, with only five hits. When it seemed like the All Stars' debut would be a bust, they scored three runs in the eighth inning.

Virgil Secharmidal led the offensive as he connected for a lead off base hit. He then stole second base and was in prime position for Angel Palacios who brought him home on an RBI single for their first run. Palacios then scored the second run after Isiah Lizama got a pinch-hit single and made the third run after a single by Josenio Alvarez.

The Tritons came back though in the last inning and it was lights out for the All Stars when they took the lead by just one run.

Against the undefeated Cardinals on Friday, the Tritons lost in a run-frenzy, close 14-15 game.

The Cardinals showed the Tritons why they lead the SBL league and are undefeated as they welcomed the Tritons with a 7-run first inning.

The Cardinals pummeled Tritons pitcher Kobe Martinez with back-to-back runs from the top of their lineup, to the bottom, while Cardinals pitcher Jonah Flores held his ground.

Later in the game, three more pitchers will come out for the Cardinals to try and fan out the flames that the Tritons started in the third inning.

By the fourth inning, the Tritons were down by just two runs, 6-8, but the Cardinals started their offense again and put up five for a good 7-run lead cushion.

However, the Tritons' heart of the order put up four runs in the sixth inning from a run by Jathan Muna-Barnes, Kyle Martinez, Andrew Perez, and Gage Lim, to cut down the Cardinals lead by three runs.

The Cardinals then scored one run in the sixth from a Tritons' fielding error that allowed Jordan Suel to score, then the Tritons breathed ever closer down the Cardinals' necks as they scored four runs by the eighth inning for a tie, 14-14 game.

For all the marbles and the undefeated title on the line, the Cardinals' Suel scored the go-ahead run on passed balls by Tritons catcher Kyle Martinez in the eighth inning and won by one run, 15-14.

On Saturday, the young guns of the Junior Nationals claimed a 7-5 win over the Tritons.

The CNMI youngsters played with grit and sound fundamentals as they outplayed some of Guam's national team players during the 2022 Pacific Mini Games.

The Junior Nats struck first as J.R. Suel scored the first run of the game.

The Tritons' offense only came to life in the middle to the last stretch of the game, but by then, the Junior Nats had already scored their seven runs.

Three runs were made in the third inning from the top of the Junior Nats' order as Joell Borja, Suel, and Achilles Evangelista scored, while the bottom of the lineup produced in the fourth inning. Angelo Igitol, Justin Camacho, and Jylon Sablan put up the three runs for a 7-2 lead by the fifth inning.

Only three more runs were made by the Tritons as the Junior Nats' pitching staff made them wave the white flag and settle for the 7-5 loss.

The tourney wrapped up last night with a game against the Tritons and the All Stars, with results to be reported in the next issues of Saipan Tribune.

O'CONNEL

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The Saipan Community School alumnae also extended her gratitude to her ever supportive family and the Oceania Tennis Federation.

"I would also like to thank my family who has been supporting me unconditionally and to my dad who has been coaching me behind continuously. I would like to give thanks to the OTF for giving me the opportunity to represent the Pacific Oceania team. I hope this achievement would give many hopes and beliefs to many island players, especially younger junior players," she added.

Aside from heaping praises to Lee, O'Connell also marveled at the team's ascendance from a lowly 12th seed to promotion to Group I in the last week's 2023 Billie Jean King Cup.

"I'm proud of the team and know how proud they are of themselves! Despite our 12th seeding (out of 12 teams), I knew we were capable of being promoted. To do it undefeated, beating multiple teams for the first time in our history (Hong Kong, Chinese-Taipei, and Indonesia) was special. We have shown again that Pacific tennis players can excel at a very high level of competition and hope our ladies have inspired the next generation of Pacific players to believe they too can excel in this game."

O'Connell added that teamwork was quite exceptional and one of the primary reasons Pacific Oceania topped the six-day tournament.

"There are so many long standing relationships and shared experiences on this team. Team camaraderie was exceptional. We communicated well, laughed a lot, and each person put the needs of the team ahead of their own. The players had belief in the big moments and were able to execute. On many occasions we faced adversity, and our response was exceptional. We also did a good job of controlling what we could control both on and off the court."

Pacific Oceania went undefeated in their 2023 Billie Jean King Cup competition at the National Tennis Centre in Malaysia's capital city and thus gained promotion to Group I in 2024.

Pacific Oceania, the Pool A topnotcher, capped their 5-0 brilliance in the six-day tournament after subduing Pool B winner Indonesia, 2-0, last Saturday.

Aside from Pacific Oceania, Chinese-Taipei was the other team promoted to Group I after it turned back New Zealand, 2-1.

Lee, Apisah, and Patricia and Abigail Apisah and Fiji's Saoirse Breen make up the Pacific Oceania.

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION

The victorious Pacific Oceania team topped the 2023 Billie Jean King Cup en route to promotion to Group I in 2025. They are shown here on top of the podium while being surrounded by organizers of the competition in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Olson drives in 5 runs as Braves sweep Brewers, 8-6.

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Runners ecstatic with return of Saipan Marathon

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With the Marianas Visitors Authority announcing that the Saipan Marathon will be held on March 9, 2024, the islands' running community was understandably excited with the return of an old favorite.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The running community on the islands is excited with the announcement that Saipan Marathon will return on March 9, 2024.

MVA managing director Chris Concepcion himself confirmed over the weekend that the full 42.1-kilometer route will be part of the suite of running events for next year.

"Yes, we will have the 42.1-kilometer or 26.2-mile full marathon, but we'll also have the half marathon too and 10K. Maybe even 5K for kids," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Concepcion added that with COVID-19 restrictions in the world's rearview mirror he expects a cadre of tourists who are also into running to join the 2024 Saipan Marathon.

"We expect Japanese and Korean runners to make up the majority of runners. We do not expect to be back at pre-COVID numbers of participants since the China market is completely out now. But we do expect a good turnout of participants from the CNMI, Japan, Korea, Guam, U.S., and a decent number from other countries in our region and around the world. Our goal is to get the Saipan Marathon re-certified by AIMS and IAAF so that we attract elite runners from around the world," he said.

AIMS stands for the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races, while IAAF is the International Association of Athletics Federations.

Last year, the event was reduced to a half marathon and 10K due to logistical concerns, while this year it was scrapped altogether due to budgetary issues.

Run Saipan president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. said his group is quite ecstatic that MVA has decided to bring back the Saipan Marathon.

"It's an absolute relief you know when you can run a race you're not directing. Especially at this insane scale of participants coming in. I can't wait to be on the start line stress-free. Thank you MVA and your hardworking team!"

Dr. Ron Snyder, Run Saipan secretary/treasurer, can't agree more with Dela Cruz.

"We are very excited about the Saipan Marathon coming back. This has been a staple of the distance running calendar in the CNMI. Run Saipan chose the date for the Atkins Kroll Half Marathon in December to be far enough away from the Marathon date that people could train and recover for both. I only hope that the new date is consistent with when it was held in the past."

Dr. Lily Muldoon, who is a multi-awarded runner, said it's wonderful news that the Saipan Marathon will be returning in 2024.

"There is buzz amongst the running community that the race is coming back and I can feel the excitement. Hopefully it

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SBL teams 2, UOG 1 in baseball friendship tourney

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

LEIGH GASES
SBL All Stars pitcher Jason Reyes delivers a pitch to University of Guam Tritons player Kyle Martinez rduring Game 1 of the 2023 SBL-UOG Baseball Friendship Tournament last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

July showers held off long enough for the 2023 SBL-UOG Baseball Friendship Tournament to get started last Thursday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Baseball Field.

The delayed tourney completed three games by last Saturday night, as the Saipan Baseball League teams Cardinals and Junior Nationals racked up a win each, while the Tritons stole a win against the SBL All Stars.

The first game on Thursday went to the Tritons after they just slipped past the All Stars team in a last-inning rally, 4-3.

The All Stars home team speckled the rain-glistened field with their colorful uniforms from the teams they represent in the SBL league, and pitcher Jason Reyes started the game off with a 1-2-3 inning.

Tritons pitcher Larry Flores II returned the favor and shut down the All Stars' first three batters as well. The Tritons then struck first as Saipan grown, UOG second baseman Antonio Norita, broke onto the scene with a leadoff single in the third—much to the delight of his family and supporters in the crowd.

Norita was then given two free passes to advance to sec-

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O'Connel marvels at Carol's grit, professionalism

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

OCEANIA TENNIS FEDERATION
Pacific Oceania captain William O'Connell poses with the Islanders players during a break in last week's 2023 Billie Jean King Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Pacific Oceania captain William O'Connell said the CNMI's Carol Lee was just what the doctor ordered and an integral part of the Islanders' successful campaign in last week's 2023 Billie Jean King Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Playing No. 1 for Pacific Oceania, the 20-year-old Georgia Tech standout won all her singles matches and lost only one doubles match en route to helping the team go undefeated and an outright promotion to Group I in 2024.

"Carol's easy going nature and conscientiousness make her an exceptional teammate. Her professionalism around her tennis and motivation to play is inspiring. On-court she showed so much grit and seemed to find another gear when it mattered most," said O'Connell.

Lee, for her part, thanked O'Connell and her teammates for an unforgettable six days of tennis in the Southeast Asian nation.

"I want to thank my Billie Jean King Cup team members for a great team effort and spirit and to my captain as well for a great week. We all adapted quickly to one another in a short period of time as a team since we haven't seen each other for a long time."

See O'CONNEL on Page 23